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Series : S2RPQ

SET-1

Q.P. Code 1/2/1

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

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

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NOTE :

(I) Please check that this question paper contains **23** printed pages.

(II) Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.

(III) Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.

(IV) **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**

(V) 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

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

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

(i) *This Question Paper has* ***13*** *questions.* ***All*** *questions are compulsory.*

(ii) *This question paper contains* ***three*** *sections – Section – A :* ***Reading Skills,*** *Section – B :* ***Creative Writing Skills*** *and Section – C :* ***Literature****.*

(iii) *Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*

(iv) *Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*

(v) *Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

(vi) *All the names, addresses etc. used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.*

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SECTION – A

(READING SKILLS) (22 Marks)

1. Read the passage carefully : **12 M**

Chronobiology : The Science of Time is within Us.

(1) Beneath the conscious rhythm of our waking lives lies a subtler, deeply embedded tempo of our body's internal clock, orchestrated by the field of chronobiology. This clock doesn't tick with mechanical precision but rather responds to cues from nature: the rising sun, the fading light, or the temperature of the wind. Governed by the suprachiasmatic nucleus in the brain, this circadian rhythm aligns our sleep, metabolism, hormone release, and even mood with the 24-hour cycle.

(2) Scientists have discovered that disrupting this internal clock whether through jet lag, night shifts, or excessive exposure to screens can lead to a biological desynchronization that affects everything from digestion to memory. A study from the University of Colorado found that just one week of camping away from artificial light, resets participants' circadian rhythm entirely. The body, it seems, remembers the sun even when the mind forgets.

(3) What's striking is the clock's inflexible loyalty to nature. Artificial attempts to override it such as caffeine-induced wakefulness or screen-induced sleeplessness may work temporarily but often has a hidden cost : chronic fatigue, hormonal imbalance, and weakened immunity. Its not just sleep we lose, it's the invisible equilibrium that our biology depends on.

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(4) Modern life, with its blurring of day and night, has birthed what experts call 'social jet lag' a state where our societal obligations pull us in one temporal direction, while our biology tugs us in another. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable, as their natural clocks shift later during puberty, clashing with early school timings. The result ? A generation persistently deprived of meaningful rest.

(5) What is the way forward – we need to understand that sleep deficiency and chronic fatigue are considered major risk factors for diseases, depression, and accidents. People must take care of sleep hygiene at regular time, avoid screen time before bed time, and ensure comfortable conditions. Taking short breaks for stretching, breathing, or a few hours of exercise reduces tension. When body demands rest, it should not be ignored. One must respond to it rather than ignoring it.

(6) Chronobiologists argue that respecting internal time could transform public health. Adjusting school hours, designing light-conscious architecture or aligning work shifts with biological peaks could reduce stress and enhance productivity. As we continue racing against time, perhaps the most radical act is to slow down and listen to the timekeepers within us quiet, persistent and wise.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage :

(i) According to paragraph 1, what role does the suprachiasmatic nucleus play in our daily lives ? **1**

(ii) How does the author use the metaphor 'the body remembers the sun even when the mind forgets' in paragraph 1 ? **1**

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(iii) Read and complete the following sentence suitably (Para 2).

The phrase biological desynchronization refers to the state in which the : **1**

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.

(A) body's natural rhythms no longer align with external time cues.

(B) brain stops producing hormones due to stress.

(iv) Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage with reference to Para 2.

Designating specific hours/days for screen free activity can help _____. **1**

(v) Why does the writer refer to the circadian clock's loyalty to nature as inflexible ? (Para 3) **1**

(A) operates independently of external environments.

(B) resists manipulation through artificial means.

(C) helps regulate heart rate very quickly.

(D) is governed generally by only genetics.

(vi) Provide ONE textual evidence to support 'The body pays a hidden price for tampering with its natural rhythms'. (Para 3) **1**

(vii) In the line '... societal obligations pull us in one temporal direction, while our biology tugs us in another', what does this contrast reveal about modern life ? (Para 4) **1**

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(viii) Scientists use the term 'social jet lag' in paragraph 4 to describe the modern sleep crisis to _____. **1**

(A) compare how schedules disrupt our internal clock, similar to time zone travel confusion.

(B) show that digital tools help improve sleep and daily performance in modern life.

(C) suggest that regular travel is needed to maintain focus and healthy body rhythms.

(D) points out that teenagers stay awake late at night without valid biological reasons.

(ix) Explain why adolescents may be at risk of internal time disruption. (Para 4-5) **2**

(x) Based on paragraph 6, identify possible obstacles to applying chronobiological principles in everyday life. **2**

2. Read the passage carefully : **10 M**

The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities :

A sustainable future or Fleeting Trend

Introduction :

(1) As India's metropolises swell under the weight of population growth, pollution and food insecurity, a quiet revolution is unfolding on rooftops and balconies : urban farming. Once seen as a hobby for the eco-conscious elite, urban agriculture is now being explored as a practical solution to city-based food shortages, environmental degradation, and even mental health challenges.



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Methodology – survey – explanation

(2) In 2024, a survey by the Indian Institute of Sustainable Agriculture revealed that 1 in 7 urban households in Tier-1 cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, now practise some form of food cultivation ranging from herbs on kitchen shelves to aquaponic systems on terraces. The motivations are varied : some grow spinach and tomatoes to escape pesticide exposure, while others experiment with hydroponics as a side hustle. Municipal authorities are also catching on; in Chennai and Pune, tax rebates and community grants are now offered to promote green roof tops.

Results :

(3)

Year	City	% of Households Engaged	Notable Initiatives
2022	Bengaluru	9%	'Grow Your Own Food' Campaign
2023	Delhi	11%	Rooftop farming subsidy scheme
2024	Pune	15%	Terrace Garden Tax Rebate
2025	Hyderabad	18% (projected)	App-based Micro Farm Programme

Data Table : Urban Farming Trends (2022-2025)

Effects :

Advocates urge that farming reduces 'food miles' (the distance food travels from farm to fork), improves air quality, and reconnects city dwellers with the rhythms of nature. Critics, however, are skeptical. They argue that lack of space, high initial costs for equipment, and unreliable yields make urban farming unsustainable at scale. Moreover, without regulation, concern about rooftop safety and water use efficiency persists.

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Implications :

(4) Still, the momentum is growing. NGOs like 'Haryali' and start-ups like 'Rangeen' have emerged, offering seed kits, app-based guidance and balcony farming workshops. For young professionals navigating fast-paced lives, this offers something tangible : control, calm and climate action, all from a window ledge.

Conclusion :

(5) Whether urban farming becomes a permanent fixture of Indian city life or remains a well-intentioned trend will depend not just on individual choices but on how cities plan, regulate and integrate agriculture into their concrete jungles.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

Complete the following suitably :

(i) In the introduction (Para 1), the writer emphasizes on the transformative potential of a quiet revolution by _____. **1**

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

'In Chennai and Pune, tax rebates and community grants are now offered to promote green roof tops'.

(A) primary purpose (B) incentives

(C) methodology (D) implications

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(iii) Based on the passage, why might people opt to grow spinach and tomatoes on their own at home rather than purchasing them ? (Para 2) **1**

(iv) If the current trend as depicted in the table continues, which Indian city is most likely to emerge as a national model for tech-integrated urban farming by 2026 ? Give your reasoning. **2**

(v) Analyze from the given data, what distinguishes Pune's approach from Hyderabad's in encouraging urban farming ? **1**

(vi) Write any two major challenges that have catalyzed the rise of urban farming. **1**

(vii) Name two incentives provided by NGOs or start-ups that encourage urban farming. How does this movement benefit the urban workforce ? (Para 4) **2**

(viii) Which of the following is NOT a challenge associated with urban farming, according to the passage ? **1**

(A) limited space availability

(B) excessive food production

(C) high equipment costs

(D) inconsistent production

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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 organizing a workshop on – 'Building Financial Literacy in Teenagers', to help students understand the basics of budgeting, saving, and digital banking. You are Jyoti / Jawahar, the Head girl / boy of Mystic Falls High School. Draft a notice inviting the students of Std. XI and XII to attend the event. Include all relevant details. Put the notice in a box.

3. (B) Your school is preparing for the Annual Day function and needs enthusiastic volunteers to assist in various organizational committees, such as decoration, stage compering, and backstage management. As the Cultural Head, draft a notice inviting students of X to XII to register their names for the same. You are Ananya / Arnav. Put the notice in a box.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two (A) or (B) in about **50** words : **1 × 4 = 4**

(A) You are Kinjal / Kenneth, the school leader of St. Aloysius School, Gwalior. Your school is organizing a student led 'Culinary Festival' on 10th October 2025 at 10 a.m. Draft a formal invitation inviting parents to the festival. Include all the necessary details.

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4. (B) You are Dr. Ria Sen, a renowned environmentalist. You have received an invitation to speak at an inter-school conclave on 'Climate change – the Role of Youth'. Draft a reply consenting to attend the event.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

(A) You are Priya / Pranav, a former school teacher. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the need to prioritize health and fitness of children in schools today. Emphasize on the need to play sports, eat nutritious food, and involvement of families in setting positive examples. Draft the letter using your own ideas as well as the cues given below.

- Importance of forming good habits
- Promotion of constructive leisure activities
- Significance of physical sport and daily exercise
- Importance of sleep and limiting screen time

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5. (B) You are Meera Thomas of 52, Green Meadows, Kochi. You read the following advertisement and wish to apply. Write an application along with your bio-data.

STARLIGHT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

REQUIRES

DRAMA TEACHER

Qualification : Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts or its equivalent.

Experience required : 3 years of teaching drama, direction, stage management

- Experience in educational institution or workshops with children.

Skills Required :

- Communication
- Leadership to motivate, lead, and manage
- Creativity
- Organizational ability

Apply to The Principal, Starlight International School, Seawood Avenue, Bengaluru within ten days

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6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, (A) or (B) in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

(A) In a world dominated by screens and social media, the need for regular digital detox has become more important than ever, especially for teenagers. Write an article for your school magazine highlighting the importance of disconnecting from digital devices for mental clarity, real-world connection, and holistic growth. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Neelima / Neel Roy of Class XII B.

- What are the psychological and emotional impacts of excessive screen time ?
- How will digital detox help ?
- Suggestions on steps that students, parents, and schools can take to promote mindful use of technology.

6. (B) You are Tarini / Tarun Bedi of Class XII E and a member of the school's library council. Your school recently hosted a pop-up literature café in the library, wherein students shared poetry, flash fiction, and held themed table discussions. Write a comprehensive report describing the event, its purpose, student response and how it will contribute to promoting the reading culture in your school. Use the Who – What – When – Where – Why – How structure to organize your report.

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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) The little house was out with a little new shed

In front at the edge of the road where traffic sped,

A roadside stand that pathetically pled,

It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread

But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports

The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.

The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,

Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts

At having the landscape marred with artless paint

Of sign that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

(A Roadside Stand)

(i) What does the phrase 'the flower of cities' symbolically represent in the context of the poem ?

(ii) Read the statement and choose the correct option :

Assertion (A) : The roadside stand is a desperate appeal for inclusion in economic progress.

Reason (R): The villagers do not seek charity but want to be part of the mainstream financial flow that nourishes urban centers.

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

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

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

The roadside stand is positioned at the edge of the road to _____ (attract / discourage) the attention of city dwellers in their cars.

(iv) Complete the following suitably :

In the excerpt the phrase 'polished traffic' symbolizes _____.

(v) Which of the following ideas is not supported by the extract ?

(A) The villagers are seeking alms from the affluent to survive.

(B) There is a disconnect between urban wealth and rural struggle.

(C) The signage used by villagers lacks professional polish.

(D) Passing motorists are disinterested in the stand's appeal.

(vi) What is the message that the poet wishes to convey in the given excerpt ?

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7. (B) When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by

The tigers in the panel that she made

Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid

(i) What is the irony reflected in the contrast between Aunt Jennifer and the tigers she embroidered ?

(ii) Select the phrase that suggests the following :

The oppressive nature of Aunt Jennifer's marriage.

(iii) What does the imagery of the 'tigers' NOT represent in the given extract ?

(A) Terror (B) Freedom

(C) Fearlessness (D) Majesty

(iv) The poet's tone towards Aunt Jennifer can BEST be described as :

(A) celebratory (B) indifferent

(C) empathetic (D) judgemental

(v) Aunt Jennifer is referred to simply as 'Aunt' in the end, highlighting _____.

(vi) State in one sentence, what is your advice to Aunt Jennifer with reference to the given extract and other women like her most likely to include ?



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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) After I had watched all this, at last I went home. My elder brother was there. I told him the story in all its comic details. I fell about with laughter at the memory of a big man, and an elder at that, making such a game out of carrying the parcel. But Annan was not amused. Annan told me the man wasn't being funny when he carried the package like that. He said everybody believed that they were upper caste and therefore must not touch us. If they did, they would be polluted.

That's why he had to carry the package by its string.

(Memories of Childhood : We Too are Human Beings)

(i) Complete the following suitably.

Bama's description of her observation of an elder portrays a _____ society.

(ii) What shift in understanding does the narrator undergo after her brother explains the event ?

(A) confusion to clarity (B) humour to indifference

(C) laughter to awareness (D) pride to shame

(iii) List one emotion that Annan feels on hearing Bama's account.

(iv) Why according to Annan, did the elder have to carry the packet by the string ?

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8. (B) I got to wishing that you were right. Then I got to believing you were right. And, Charley, it's true. I found the third level ! I've been here two weeks, and right now, down the street at the Daly's, someone is playing a piano, and they are all out on the front porch singing 'Seeing Nelly Home'. And I'm invited over for lemonade – come on back, Charley and Louisa. Keep looking till you find the third level. It's worth it, believe me ! – The note is signed Sam. *(The Third Level)*

(i) Complete the following suitably :

The idea evoked by the singing of 'Seeing Nelly Home' and having lemonade on the porch strongly evokes _____.

(ii) What is ironical in Sam, the psychiatrist, being the one who 'escapes' to Galesburg and the past ?

(iii) Why does Charley want Sam to come to the third level ?

(iv) What is the overall tone that is conveyed through the content and style of Sam's letter to Charley ?

(A) melancholic and uncertain

(B) cheerful and inviting

(C) cynical and friendly

(D) detached and factual

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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 officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians.

The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors. Gandhi protested against the delay. He read a statement pleading guilty. He was involved, he told the court, in a 'conflict of duties' – on the one hand, not to set a bad example as a lawbreaker, on the other hand, to render the 'humanitarian and national service' for which he had come. He disregarded the order to leave, 'not for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience'. He asked for the penalty due. *(Indigo)*

(i) Gandhi's method of engaging with the officials, as depicted in the passage, primarily demonstrated :

(A) The power of non-violent resistance and moral authority.

(B) His willingness to compromise on key principles for cooperation.

(C) A tactical retreat to gain future advantages.

(D) A strategy of negotiation and reconciliation.

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(ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blanks.

The reaction of the officials when Gandhi regulated the crowd was of _____. (bafflement/indifference)

(iii) Complete the following sentence suitably :

The government's decision to postpone the trial to consult higher authorities implies that they _____.

(iv) What is reflected through the phrase 'voice of conscience' in the given excerpt ?

(v) Choose the correct option :

"On the one hand not to set a bad example as a lawbreaker; on the other hand, to render humanitarian and national service"

The above line from the extract expresses _____.

(A) conflict (B) humiliation

(C) admiration (D) suppression

(vi) Complete the following with a suitable reason :

Gandhi asked for the penalty due because _____.

9. (B) After dark she walked by the canal, along a sheltered part lighted only by the glare of the lamps from the wharf across the water, and the unceasing drone of the city was muffled and distant. It was a place she had often played in when she was a child. There was a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm where lovers sometime came. She sat down to wait. It was a perfect place, she had always thought so, for a meeting of this kind. For those who wished not be observed. She knew he would approve. *(Going Places)*



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(i) Where did she walk after it was dark ?

(ii) Why does the sound of the city being 'muffled and distant' matter in the context of her present mood ?

(A) reflects her desire to escape the noise of daily life.

(B) suggests a peaceful contrast to her inner excitement.

(C) creates a dreamy atmosphere that supports her fantasy.

(D) emphasizes her emotional detachment from the real world.

(iii) How does the description of the setting contribute to the mood of the extract ?

(A) creates a nostalgic and emotionally reflective tone through memories.

(B) builds suspense and tension with dark, unfamiliar surroundings.

(C) highlights a lively and energetic atmosphere with city sounds.

(D) emphasizes a sense of urgency and action in Sophie's movements.

(iv) Complete the following sentence with a reason :

She chose the particular location for her meeting because ____.

(v) Why did she feel that he would approve of her choice of location?

(vi) Complete the following with a suitable reason :

She sat down on a wooden bench beneath the solitary elm because _____.

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10. Attempt **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in **40-50** words each : **5 × 2 = 10**

(i) Eco's non-fictional writing and scholarly work is a marked departure from a regular academic style. Comment on Umberto Eco's writing style in the context of the above statement. *(The Interview)*

(ii) Why does the ironmaster comment, 'You do preach worse than a parson' to his daughter on her request to let the peddler stay on for Christmas ? *(The Rattrap)*

(iii) Elucidate – 'There is terror only in the fear of death.' (Deep Water)

(iv) Why do the children of Firozabad continue working in glass making factories despite the hardships ? *(Lost Spring)*

(v) 'Pale as a late winter's moon' is used to describe the mother sitting in the car. What does this image convey of the mother ?

(My Mother at Sixty Six)

(vi) Briefly comment on the personality of the legal adviser in the Story Department in 'Poets and Pankakes'. *(Poets and Pancakes)*

11. Attempt **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in **40-50** words each : **2 × 2 = 4**

(i) How is the 'Student on Ice Programme', a step towards the future ?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

(ii) How did Dr. Sadao's father's upbringing impact his values and choices later in life ? *(The Enemy)*

(iii) Why does Mr. Lamb tell Derry to shift his focus from his own scarred face to the world around him ? *(On the Face of It)*

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12. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

(A) In the poem 'Keeping Quiet', nature serves as a model for stillness and rejuvenation and in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' natural elements offer constant comfort and solace against the hardships of life. Discuss.

OR

(B) 'The Last Lesson' and 'The Interview' highlight the importance of language in one's life. Comment with reference to the given texts.

13. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

(A) How does Kalki use irony at the end of the story to deliver poetic justice to the Tiger King ? *(The Tiger King)*

OR

(B) 'No, I will not submit. I will struggle first !' How does Zitkala – Sa's resistance reflect her inner strength and identity ?

(Memories of Childhood)

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