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Series : ZYW2X

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.

ENGLISH (Core)

*Time allowed : **3** hours*

*Maximum Marks : **80***

- Please check that this question paper contains **15** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- 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 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. ~

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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.*

SECTION – A
(READING SKILLS) (22 Marks)

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

(1) Having a sense of humour might mean having the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh, but it can also mean having a quick wit that is frequently employed to criticize other people with snide comments. Some might define the sense of humour as the ability to see humour in everyday life or as appreciating the cleverness of puns and other wordplay, and may think it entirely possible to possess a good sense of humour without ever having those around them become aware of it.

(2) In any case, a sense of humour is a socially valued trait that almost all of us would prefer to have more, rather than less, of – akin to the way that we think about intelligence or good looks. A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life.

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(3) Freud thought of humour as an outlet for forbidden impulses, and philosophers ranging from Aristotle to Descartes believed that we are amused by something when it makes us feel superior to other people.

(4) Evolutionary psychologists believe that humour, along with other creative abilities, such as art and music, evolved as an honest signal of intelligence and genetic quality. The value of such a skill in defusing tense, aggressive situations and in managing alliances and friendships should not be underestimated either.

(5) Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in light hearted banter, and other people are grateful when someone is skillful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun. Cracking jokes, making witty remarks, and engaging in tongue-in-cheek observations about the social world can be like fishing for other minds that connect naturally with one's own. In other words, humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.

(6) Observing the performance of other people in such situations tips you off as to who you might like to get to know better – and who might be best left behind, wallowing in indignation and blank stares. In short, a sense of humour is the Swiss Army Knife of social skills. Perhaps it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools – each exquisitely designed for a unique social purpose.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage above :

(i) How does the author prove in paragraph 1 that sense of humour is a double edged sword ? **1**

(ii) Cite evidences from the passage to prove that sense of humour is a valuable tool to make someone's life better. **2**

(iii) Complete the following sentence suitably with reference to paragraph 3. **1**

One significant advantage of humour is that it helps one _____.

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(iv) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 5, how a good sense of humour can be a great ice breaker. **1**

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

According to evolutionary psychologists, people with a sense of humour can _____ (trigger / lighten) tense situation.

(vi) Choose the correct option : **1**

"….humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength."

By the phrase 'same wavelength' the author refers to

(A) people of age group

(B) people who belong to same line of profession.

(C) people having similar interests and attitudes.

(D) people who are working in the same organisation.

(vii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 6 : **1**

advantage : benefit : _____ : anger

(A) situation

(B) stare

(C) indignation

(D) arsenal

(viii) In the line perhaps 'it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools……' What does the phrase 'arsenal of tools' refer to ? **2**

(ix) Provide ONE textual evidence from the text which states lack of sense of humour may prove to be a handicap in one's life. **1**

(x) An undeveloped sense of humour shows lack of a social skill that puts him or her at a disadvantage.

Choose the correct option (A) or (B) which reaffirms the idea conveyed in the above extract. **1**

(A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle.

(B) People with sense of humour are not taken seriously in the society.

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

(1) This report presents findings from the Youth Aspirations in India Survey in which 5,764 youth between the ages of 15 and 30 were asked about their employment, education, and skilling aspirations.

(2) Indian youth valued higher education. 50 percent of respondents aspire to attain a post-graduate degree, 24 percent a PhD, and 21 percent a bachelor's degree. Only 2 percent of respondents hope to attain a college or vocational diploma as their highest form of education.

(3) Respondents have a strong preference for attaining higher education degrees. At the same time, there is an awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills. 76 percent of youth report being very interested in pursuing a skills development programme. 70 percent of youth identified more employment opportunities as the main motivation for wanting to pursue skills development training.

(4) A study related to their job preference reveals their strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancement. It is evident from the following data :

Percentage	Preference
49	Public Sector
23	Private Sector
17	Entrepreneurship

(5) In the context of technological adoption and digitization, jobs and tasks, along with the competencies required to execute them, are changing. 86 percent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skills requirements. Yet, 39 percent of youth feel very prepared or prepared for their ideal job, while 16 percent of youth feel either not prepared or very unprepared for their ideal job.

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(6) Female respondents' education and employment aspirations match, if not exceed, those of male respondents. Yet, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring, have less paid work experience than their male counterparts, and face greater barriers in pursuing skills development opportunities. 60 percent of female respondents, for example, report having no paid work experience, compared to 54 percent of male respondents. In addition, 15 percent of female respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background as a main barrier to employment compared to 9 percent of male respondents. While more female respondents report being very interested in participating in a skills development programme, only 19 percent have enrolled in a programme, compared to 26 percent of male respondents.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage :

(i) As per the survey, Indian youth is broadly focussed on **1**

(A) skill development and entrepreneurship.

(B) private sector jobs and technology.

(C) higher education and career opportunities.

(D) vocational diploma and public sector jobs.

(ii) With reference to paragraph 3, what is the latest trend among Indian youth in preparing themselves for the job market ? **1**

(iii) With reference to the table, state one reason for entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth. **1**

(iv) Cite two evidences from the text to show that gender bias is still a hindrance in the progress of women in society. **2**

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

The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is _____.

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(vi) Paragraph 5 uses words 'competencies' and 'adoption'. Classify the following sentences which talks about 'competency' and which talks about 'adoption'. **1**

Sentence – 1 : Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings.

Sentence – 2 : Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings.

(vii) Cite two evidences from the text to show that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market. **2**

(viii) Choose the correct option : **1**

The main road blocks to employment opportunities for females are :

(i) lack of interest

(ii) marriage

(iii) lack of opportunities

(iv) over qualification

(v) family background

(A) (i) & (ii) (B) (iii) & (iv)

(C) (ii), (iii) & (v) (D) (iv) & (v)

SECTION – B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (18 Marks)

(**Note :** All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose)

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

(A) Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX – XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(B) Your school is organizing an Inter-House Science Model-Making-Competition. As President of the Science Club, draft a notice to inform all House members from IX – XII about the competition and specify the number of registrations invited per house. Include other necessary details. You are Mitali/Mukesh. Put your notice in a box.

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

(A) Draft an invitation card on behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School for the launch of 'Yoga for Life' programme in the school. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

OR

(B) You are Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar, a professor in English. You are invited to be one of the judges for the inter-school debate competition by the Principal of J.M. Public School, Cochin. Write a formal letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation.

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

(A) You are Ajay of 36, N.J. Colony, Pune. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

Bloom Public School, Bhopal
Requires

Hockey Coach	–	Graduates with B.P.Ed degree preferred. Minimum 4 years experience.
Skills	–	Well versed in defence techniques, knowledge of physical and psychological performance development. Ability to foster team culture and promote sportsmanship. Prepare students for state/national championships.

Write to The Principal, Bloom Public School, Bhopal

OR

(B) Social literacy is increasingly recognized as a crucial 21st century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing social literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Reena Sharma of 36, M.V. Apartments, Pune.

- What is social literacy ?
- What is the role of school in imparting social literacy to young students ?
- What are the benefits of social literacy ?
- How is social literacy connected to career advancement ?

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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 on the commercialisation of festivals, analyzing the reasons for commercialisation and its impact on the younger generation. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Vinita Yadav of XII B.

- impact of globalization on celebration of festivals.
- sanctity & essence of festivals.
- role of Media in commercializing festivals.
- suggest ways in which individuals and communities can work together to preserve tradition and culture in the celebration of festivals.

OR

(B) You are Suraj, reporter of The Times of India. You are sent to cover the Mango Festival organized at the farmer's market.
Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities at the festival. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, the overall impact of these activities on the local community.
You may organize your report by following –
Who – What – When – Why – How.

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) It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store.
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way. *(A Roadside Stand)*

(i) The expression 'It is in the news' suggests
(A) it is good news for the roadside stand owners.
(B) an important decision has been taken by the government.
(C) the roadside stand owners have protested against the government.
(D) that the news was not there in the newspaper.

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(ii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion : The poet complains that the rural people are exploited by the people in power.

Reason : The rural people reposed blind faith in the false promises of the people in power.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

(A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation.

(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) Complete the following suitably :

In the line 'that are calculated to soothe them out of their wits", the phrase 'soothe them out of their wit' refers to _____.

(iv) Bring out the irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves'.

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

The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to _____ (criticize / appreciate) the intention of the powerful people.

(vi) Complete the following suitably.

The tone of the poet in the above extract is _____.

OR

(B) If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves with death.
Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go. *(Keeping Quiet)*

(i) Complete the following suitably.

The poet uses the expression 'single minded' to refer to _____.

(ii) Why does the poet refer to silence as a welcoming interruption ?

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(iii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion : The poet personifies Earth as a teacher.

Reason : We learn from the Earth that pausing doesn't mean the end.

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.

(iv) Complete the following suitably.

By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to _____.

(v) Choose the correct option :

The intention of the poet in the above extract is

(A) to make us aware of the importance of Earth.

(B) to criticize our single mindedness.

(C) to highlight the reason for our sadness.

(D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.

(vi) What is the significance of the last line of the extract 'you keep quiet and I will go' ?

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two (A) or (B) : **1 × 4 = 4**

(A) When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, and I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the Vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper ? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself straight away. Why should we have to fetch and carry for these people. I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands over reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stuffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me. *(Memories of Childhood)*

(i) 'I felt terribly sad'. The reason for the speaker's sadness is because it was an act of _____.

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(ii) Choose the correct option :
'The thought of it infuriated me' with reference to the above line, what do you think is the impact of the incident on the speaker ?
(A) The speaker was sympathetic and helpless.
(B) The speaker was angry and condemning.
(C) The speaker was excited to see the incident.
(D) The speaker was very impressed and motivated.

(iii) Complete the sentence suitably :
'I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself'
The above expression indicates the speaker's _____.

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank :
The incident made the speaker realize that the discrimination was _____. (dehumanizing/elevating)

OR

(B) Mr. Lamb : When I go down the streets, the kids shout 'Lamey Lamb'. But they will come into the garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be ? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not.
Derry : Did you get your leg blown off in the war ?
Mr. Lamb : Certainly
Derry : How will you climb on a ladder and get the crab apples down, then ?
Mr. Lamb : Oh, there's a lot of things I've learned to do and plenty of time for it. Years. I take it steady. *(On the Face of it)*

(i) Complete the following suitably :
'Years. I take it steady'. The above line speaks of the speaker's _____.

(ii) Derry, how will you climb on a ladder ? What does Derry hint at in the above query ?

(iii) 'When I go down the streets, the kids shout Lamey Lamb.'
The attitude of the speaker expressed in the above line is
(A) his habit of finding fault.
(B) he is timid and faint hearted.
(C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude.
(D) his indifferent and careless attitude.

(iv) Fill in the blank suitably :
Mr. Lamb's handicap has not _____ his attitude towards life.

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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) Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors. I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy')

On the days when there was crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. *(Poets and Pancakes)*

(i) What does the writer mean by the phrase 'indoor shooting' in the first line of the extract ?

(ii) Pick up one sentence from the extract that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer.

(iii) The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the _____ (lowest / top) rung of the ladder.

(iv) Complete the following suitably :
On the days when there was a 'crowd-shooting'. By the phrase crowd-shooting, the author refers to _____.

(v) Choose the correct option :
"…..mix his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players."
The choice of words like 'paint' and 'slapping' by the author reflects.
(A) author's intention to degrade the office boy's role in the make-up department.
(B) the office boy's lack of seriousness.
(C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.
(D) author's dislike of the office boy.

(vi) Choose the correct option :
What does the following line from the extract showcase ?
"A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department."
(A) The office boy took all the decisions in the make-up department.
(B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.
(C) Everyone was given an equal share of work in the department.
(D) Nepotism was prevalent in the make-up department.

OR

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(B) My Last French Lesson ! Why, I hardly knew how to write ! I should never learn any more ! I must stop there, then ! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds 'eggs or going sliding on the Saar ! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up and M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was.

Poor man ! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more. *(The Last Lesson)*

(i) Choose the correct option :

What is the tone of the speaker in the expression 'I hardly knew how to write .... how sorry I was for not learning my lessons' ?

(A) confused (B) regretful

(C) surprised (D) happy

(ii) Choose the correct option :

The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' egg' and 'sliding on the Saar' as

(A) part of his routine

(B) his daily routine

(C) source of distraction from learning

(D) fun time with friends

(iii) What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of his books through his expression of calling them his 'old friends' rather than considering them as 'nuisance' ?

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank :

"It was because they were sorry too...."

They were sorry for _____ (not following the government order / not learning their language)

(v) What is inferred from the expression 'the country that was theirs no more' ?

(vi) What does M. Hamel's ruler reflect about his image ?

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10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in **40-50** words each : **5 × 2 = 10**
    (i) "One of these days you're going to talk yourself into a load of trouble;" her father said aggressively. What do you learn about Sophie's father's from these lines ? *(Going Places)*
    (ii) 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' Explain with reference to the poem. *(A Thing of Beauty)*
    (iii) How did Franz plan to turn the commotion in the classroom to his favour ?
    (iv) How do the expressions 'polished traffic' and a stand that 'pathetically pled' depict the contrasting worlds that co-exist in the poem '*A Roadside Stand*' ?
    (v) 'What I want should not be confused'. What clarification does Pablo Neruda give to his readers ? *(Keeping Quiet)*
    (vi) 'But the game he is watching so intently is out of his reach.'
    What are the factors that have made their game inaccessible to Saheb ? *(Lost Spring)*

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in **40-50** words each : **2 × 2 = 4**
    (i) What is so ironical about Sam reaching the third level ?
    (ii) What image of the Tiger King is revealed in the diamond ring episode ?
    (iii) "In that short time, we've managed to create quite a rukus." What does Tishani Doshi refer to by 'rukus' ?

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**
    (A) 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' The above saying aptly describes the character of Douglas from '*Deep Water*' and Mukesh from '*Lost Spring*'. Compare and contrast their characters in terms of their courage, determination, and the pursuit of their goals.

    OR

    (B) Kamala Das in '*Keeping Quiet*' and Keats in '*A Thing of Beauty*' depict nature as a source of inspiration and strength to man. Analyse both the poems in terms of the above perspective.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**
    (A) The element of dilemma, between humanity and Patriotism elevates the character of Dr. Sadao in '*The Enemy*'. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

    OR

    (B) How did Tishani Doshi's visit to Antartica as part of the Students on Ice Programme make her realise the importance of preserving the Earth ? *(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

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