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Code No. **003**

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

ENGLISH (Language and Literature)

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

Note :

- (i) Please check that this question paper contains **12** printed pages.
- (ii) Code number 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 **11** questions.
- (iv) Please write down the **Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- (v) **15 minutes** time has been allotted to read the question paper. The question paper will be distributed at **10.15 a.m.**, From **10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.**, the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer in the answer-book during this period.
- (vi) This question paper comprises **three sections - Section-A, Section-B and Section-C.**

Section-A - Reading Skills	-	20 marks
Section-B - Grammar and Creative Writing Skills	-	20 marks
Section-C - Literature	-	40 marks
- (vii) **All questions are compulsory.**
- (viii) There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in **Section B and Section C.** Make your choices correctly.
- (ix) In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question wherever necessary.
- (x) Answers should be in brief and to the point. The prescribed word-limit should be adhered to, as far as possible, while answering the questions.

SECTION - A
READING SKILLS

20

1. Read the passage given below :

10

- (i) While endowing senior citizens with a silvered halo of respectability, we should always remember that the ageing process inevitably renders them forgetful, absent-minded and myopic - frailties that surround them, often leaving them exasperated and at their wit's end.
- (ii) Helping to clear the dining table after breakfast recently, I dutifully picked up the table mats and butter dish, depositing the former in the fridge and the latter on the shelf. Another time I slipped my visiting card into a post box while the letter to be posted remained in my shirt pocket. The other day, I started brushing my teeth only to discover that I was using a foul tasting skin cream. Once, mistaking my toothpaste for shaving cream, I lathered my face with it. Why do toiletries come in identical looking tubes ?
- (iii) The elderly misplace nothing more often than their spectacles. Then everyone at home is roped into search for them.
- (iv) Now, with everyone wearing a mask, recognition has become tricky for the short-sighted seniors. My physically distanced but friendly 'Hi' directed at seemingly familiar faces sometimes elicits a stony and uncomprehending stare. Apparently, few like to be mistaken for someone else unless, of course that someone happens to be a celebrity !
- (v) I can still drive a car, I am no speedster, nor do I compete with those who are. I remember, having once seen a very sensible road - safety sign : " If you want to see 90, don't look for it on the speedometer !"
- (vi) Then sometime ago, while out trekking in the hills with friends, I learnt the hard way that agility is unquestionably age-linked. Required to jump across a gully, I gamely did so - only to end up at its slushy bottom, luckily sustaining nothing more than a badly bruised ego ! Yet I'm inclined to endorse American Stateman Bernard Baruch's sunny observations, "To me old age is always 15 years older than I am".

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below :

- (i) In the light of the speaker's actions throughout the passage, what can we infer about the speaker's attitude towards the ageing process ? 2
- (ii) Select the option that **does not** correspond to the following statement below : 1
Forgetfulness and ageing are closely related.
 - (a) Both cause absent mindedness.
 - (b) Both lead to humorous situations.
 - (c) Both improve capacity to focus over time.
 - (d) Both can lead to confusion in daily tasks.

- (iii) Select the option that reflects the speaker’s approach to driving : 1
 (a) Competitive (b) Reckless
 (c) Cautious (d) Overconfident
- (iv) Complete the following with a word or phrase from Paragraph (iii) : 1
 The speaker used _____ instead of toothpaste while brushing his/her teeth.
- (v) According to the speaker, what factor is closely tied to agility ? 1
- (vi) List 2 reasons why the speaker finds everyday tasks challenging ? 2
- (vii) Based on paragraph (v), what is the sensible road safety advice that the speaker follows ? 1
- (viii) Select the option that best explains the effects of ageing on senior citizens as described in paragraph (i) 1
 (1) It enhances their mental abilities.
 (2) It makes them forgetful.
 (3) It sharpens their focus on details.
 (4) It makes them absentminded.
 (a) Only (1), (4) (b) Only (2), (4)
 (c) Only (1), (2), (3) (d) Only (2)

2. Read the following passage : 10
- (i) Remember gaming cafes ? Those hourly charged Local Area Network (LAN) gaming set-ups, where gaming enthusiasts from the neighbourhood, gathered to unlock the next level. This was the start of a new wave in the gaming sector ; it evolved from being one or two person experience to a communal affair. Hyper- localised tournaments between cyber-cafes and gaming hubs soon became frequent.
- (ii) “ The e-sports boom now has revitalised the gaming scene by showcasing regional talent and drawing investment, which enhances the gaming eco-system’s infrastructure. This growth is creating jobs and attracting more young people into careers in gaming, from game development to content creation. This shift signals a cultural change in India, where gaming is now seen as a legitimate form of entertainment and a career option”, shares Anurag Banerjee, CPTO and co-founder, Light Fury Games.
- (iii) “The Indian online gaming market saw explosive growth, with gamers rising from 250 million in 2018 to 400 million by mid 2020, driven by lockdowns, remote work and a shift to virtual Social interactions”, highlights a KPMG report. Mobiles, laptops and computers became the new playgrounds, and suddenly a new gaming scene in India erupted. “We witnessed an extraordinary surge in gaming influencers and content creators, who quickly became household names, amassing millions of views each week,” shares Vishal Singh Mithani, founder of Envify Media.

- (iv) This enthusiasm for gaming has also converted into profitable sales figures. The gaming industry in India is now in a much better position than it used to be. "The online gaming industry in India has seen a rapid expansion with a 28 percent CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate), between 2020 and 2024, and projections indicate further growth to 33,243 crore by 2028, with a sustained 15% CAGR." explains Kashyap Reddy, co-founder and CEO, Hitwicket Mobile Game.
- (v) Adding to this, Nathani says, "Gaming cafes walked so that India's gaming culture could run. While the pandemic saw a surge in personal gaming setups, gaming cafes still remain an integral part of the scene. They provide an accessible entry point for anyone, from the casual player to the aspiring pro, without the hefty investment of a high end PC or laptop. These cafes still serve as vibrant hubs where gamers can immerse themselves in their favourite titles, compete with friends and be a part of a community. For many, gaming cafes are the gateway into the larger gaming world, offering an environment rich in camaraderie and shared passion".

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below :

- (i) Infer a reason for the following statement based on the information given in the passage : 1
The e-sports boom has revitalized the gaming scene because _____.
- (ii) Complete the following sentence correctly with a word/phrase from the passage : 1
As e-sports have grown, streaming has _____ to become a key part of gaming culture.
- (iii) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence : 1
Gamers in India switched from LAN cafes to virtual social interactions during the lockdown, as they _____ online games and streaming platforms.
(a) hesitated (b) embraced
(c) ignored (d) struggled
- (iv) Select the correct statement that reflects the growth of online gaming in India between 2020 and 2024. 1
(a) The gaming industry saw a 10% CAGR during this period.
(b) The online gaming industry crossed Rs. 50,000 crore by 2023.
(c) The industry experienced a 28% CAGR and is expected to grow further.
(d) Online gaming in India stagnated due to lack of investments.

- (v) Substitute the word 'shift' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph (ii): 1
 This shift signals a cultural change in India, where gaming is now seen as a legitimate form of entertainment and a career option.
- (vi) List any two examples of how streaming has become a major aspect of gaming culture, as referred to in paragraph (ii). 2
- (vii) Based on the reading of the passage, elaborate in about 40 words : 2
 Why have gaming cafes continued to be important despite the rise of mobile gaming ?
- (viii) What is the main takeaway from the projections of growth in India's gaming industry in the passage ? 1

SECTION - B

GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

20

3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions : 10
- (i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.
 The chef _____ dinner for the wedding guests by the time they arrived.
 (a) cooked (b) cooking
 (c) had been cooking (d) will cook
- (ii) Read the conversation between Grace and Ella.
 Grace : Why did you sign up for the writing workshop ?
 Ella : I believe it will help me become a better writer.
 Grace asked Ella _____ for the writing workshop. Ella replied that she believed it would help her become a better writer.
- (iii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.
 Rihan _____ the car when the accident happened.
 (a) drives (b) drove
 (c) was driving (d) driving
- (iv) Read the conversation between a host and a guest. Complete the sentence by reporting the host's question.
 Host : Do you have any dietary restrictions we should be aware of ?
 Guest : We are OK with everything.
 The host asked the guests _____.

(v) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given sentence.

Our school's environmental club _____ the green initiative award for their project.

- (a) wins (b) will won
(c) won (d) win

(vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.

The equipments in the lab _____ (be) in excellent condition.

(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given sentence :

Rehana is interested with learning new languages.

OPTION	ERROR	CORRECTION
(a)	with	in
(b)	interested	interesting
(c)	learning	learn
(d)	new	never

(viii) Read the sentence given below and fill in the blank by choosing the correct option :

The safety protocol checklist has been provided and _____ item must be completed by the end of the month.

- (a) another (b) each
(c) some (d) any

(ix) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Mrs. Sharma and her cook.

Mrs. Sharma - Sonia, prepare the lunch by 12 pm.

Sonia - Where are you going, madam ? Please return early.

Mrs. Sharma ordered her cook to prepare the lunch by 12 pm. Sonia respectfully asked Mrs. Sharma where she was going and _____.

- (a) told her to come early
(b) requested her to come early
(c) replied her that she should come early
(d) refused her to come early.

- (x) Identify the error from a sales report and supply the correction.
The data shows that sales have fell by 5% in this quarter.
Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- (xi) Shyla and her friend Kia had a conversation about having a burger party.
Report Shyla’s question.

Shyla : How many burgers should we order for our party on Saturday ?

- (xii) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction :

Smoking is prohibited in all the areas of the airport, including in restrooms.
Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

4. Write a complaint letter to the Manager of “Fresh Mart” Supermarket, expressing your dissatisfaction with the poor quality of fruits and vegetables supplied by their store. 5

Mention the following points :

- Date and details of purchase
- Specific issues with the products (eg; rotten fruits, wilted vegetables)
- unhelpful behaviour of the staff
- Request for replacement / refund and improvement in quality

Sign yourself as Perisha / Parag living in G-65, Jalandhar. (100 - 120 words)

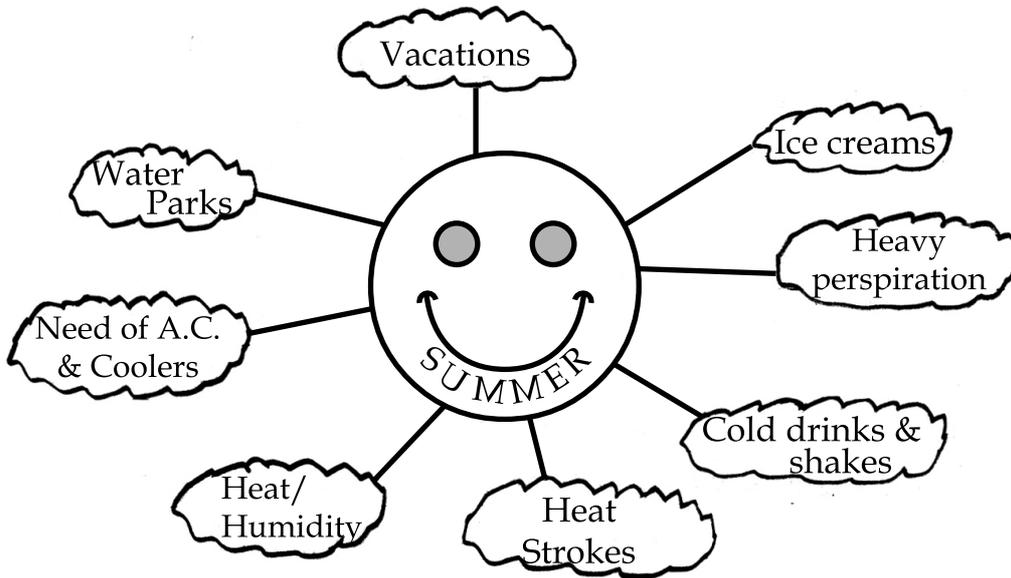
OR

You are Meera / Manoj living at 64, Jangpura, New Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, highlighting the pressing issue of mental health among teenagers in your city. Discuss the factors contributing to this problem and suggest ways to address it. (Word limit - 100 - 120 words).

Use the following hints :

- Description of the problem (rising stress, anxiety, depression)
- Causes of the problem (academic pressure, social media, peer influence)
- Effects on teenager’s well-being and academic performance
- Suggested solutions (counselling services, mindfulness programs, parental support)
- Call to action for schools, parents and authorities.

5. (A) Look at the word-web about 'SUMMER SEASON' given below. Using the verbal hints given in the web, write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words on the topic : "JOYS AND HARDSHIPS OF SUMMER" 5



OR

- (B) Study the data below showing the percentage of students opting for various streams after class 10 in a particular school over the last five years.

Year	Science	Commerce	Humanities
2018-19	40%	30%	30%
2019-20	42%	32%	26%
2020-21	45%	35%	20%
2021-22	48%	38%	14%
2022-23	50%	40%	10%

Analyse the above data and write a paragraph in **100-120** words discussing the trends and implications of the data.

SECTION - C
LITERATURE

40

6. (A) Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow : **5**

Lomov: Never mind about my people ! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather !

Chubukov : You Lomovs have had lunacy in your family, all of you!

Natalaya : All, all, all !

Chubukov : Your grandfather was a drunkard and your younger aunt, Nastasya Mihailovna ran away with an architect and so on ...

Lomov : And your mother was hump-backed. [Clutches at his heart]
Something pulling in my side ... My head ... Help ! Water !

- (i) Comment on the tone of the characters in the given extract in **20-30** words. **1**
- (ii) The main purpose of the playwright in the given extract is _____. **1**
- (iii) If Chubukov and Natalya believe that the “Lomovs are not honourable people”, Why do they still consider Lomov’s proposal ? **1**
- (a) Natalya can help her mother if she marries someone close by.
- (b) They were exaggerating and didn’t mean what they said.
- (c) They think honour is not that important
- (d) Lomov’s high status in society is more important than anything else.
- (iv) Why did Lomov go to Chubukov’s house ? **2**

OR

- (B) I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere.

I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say ‘Thank You’.

She looked at me very strangely, and then laughed.

“Another aeroplane ? Up there in the storm ? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar”.

- (i) If the narrator had been more meticulous how might the story have been changed ? **1**

- (ii) Instead of laughing, what reaction do you think the woman in the control tower should have given in this situation ? 1
- (iii) What did the narrator notice about the black aeroplane when flying through the storm ? 1
- (a) It was visible on the radar.
- (b) It had disappeared mysteriously.
- (c) It was flying below the narrator's plane.
- (d) It signalled the narrator to guide it.
- (iv) How would you classify 'The Black Aeroplane' : a supernatural experience, a thriller or a mysterious encounter ? Why ? 2
7. (A) Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow : 5
- 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 forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.
- (i) Fill in the blank correctly, giving example from the extract. 1
It is clear that metaphor is a poetic device used to _____.
- (ii) Decide if the following statement is True or False : 1
The extract uses trees as a symbol of resilience and strength.
- (iii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
A forest that has been empty for a long time is _____.
- (a) unnatural (b) frightening
(c) legendary (d) inviting
- (iv) What is the significance of the treeless forest in the extract ? How does it impact the overall atmosphere or theme of the passage ? 2

OR

(B) Belinda paled, and she cried Help ! Help!
 But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp.
 Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
 A little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.
 But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine.
 Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
 With a clatter and a Clank and a jangling squirm,
 He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

- (i) Complete the sentence with appropriate words based on your understanding of the lines : **1**
 Belinda turned pale and screamed for _____.
- (ii) What is the importance of the words fled, trickled down and hid in showing the reactions of Belinda’s pets ? **1**
- (iii) What does the action of Custard, described as “snorting like an engine” suggest about his behaviour ? **1**
- (a) He was scared and tried to run away.
 (b) He was angry and ready to fight.
 (c) He was too tired to move.
 (d) He was confused and didn’t know what to do.
- (iv) Discuss the poet’s use of language in these lines. How do the metaphors add to vividness of the imagery ? **2**

8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following in **40 -50** words. **3x4=12**

- (a) Assess the mother Seagull’s decision to withhold food from her chick. Is this strategy clever or harsh ?
- (b) Examine the cultural or historical context influencing the perception of coorgis as valorous and hospitable.
- (c) Nelson Mandela speaks of ‘Twin Obligations’. Elucidate.
- (d) Evaluate Maxwell’s concerns about sending Mij to England. Were his fears justified ?
- (e) Analyze Kisa Gotami’s emotional state. Was her grief driven by selfishness or mother’s selfless love ?

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following questions in **40-50** words each. **3x2=6**

- (a) Discuss the significance of setting boundaries in Mrs. Pumphery's relationship with Tricki.
- (b) Why did the neighbours suspect Griffin of being involved in the burglary? Was their suspicion justified?
- (c) Evaluate Monsieur Loisel's sacrifices for his wife. Do they illustrate the concept of selfless love?

10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in **100 -120** words. **6x1=6**

- (a) Analyse Lencho's conflicting beliefs in 'A Letter to God'. How does his unwavering faith in God contrast with his skepticism towards humanity?

OR

- (b) 'The Sermon at Benaras' could be seen as an additional perspective on India's culture, similar to what is shown in 'Glimpses of India'. If it were included in the story, what key themes, values and experiences would it highlight? How would you depict Benaras as a significant part of India's heritage? Provide a comparison with Coorg and Goa.

11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following in **100 -120** words. **6x1=6**

- (a) Write a diary entry describing how the story 'A Question of Trust' made you reflect on whether being smart is more important than working hard for success.

OR

- (b) Imagine a conversation between Bholi and the young thief from 'The Thief's Story'. How would they discuss the role of trust and self worth in their lives? Write a dialogue where they reflect on how trust from others helped them transform.

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