

BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER, Session 2026-27
English Core (103)
Class – XII

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions: Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

Note:

- i. Please check that this question paper contains 14 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 13 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 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 students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.
- vi. This question paper comprises three sections - Section - A, Section - B and Section - C. All questions are compulsory.
 - Section A - Reading Skills - 22 marks
 - Section B - Creative Writing Skills - 18 marks
 - Section C - Literature - 40 marks
- vii. There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, internal choice has been provided in Section - B and Section - C. You have to attempt only one of the choices in such questions.
- viii. In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question wherever necessary.
- ix. 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.


23.10.2026

	SECTION A : READING SKILL	22 MARKS
1.	Read the passage given below -	
(1)	Nuclear capability gives a status to the country in the community of nations. No nation can afford to make destructive use of nuclear energy without risking a World War. That is why America did not make use of nuclear weapons in the Vietnam War though it had become a matter of prestige for her. Similarly, Russia preferred to pull out her missile bases from Cuba instead of coming in direct conflict with a nuclear power, America. But India, since she started adopting nuclear technology, had decided to make only peaceful use of nuclear energy. The fear expressed by Pakistan and the comments made in the Chinese press are more for the sake of propaganda than for the projection of truth.	
(2)	India needs nuclear energy in order to meet her power shortage. She has been depending upon hydroelectric power which is undependable because of the uncertainty of rainfall. Good quality coal, which is another source of energy, cannot be extracted commercially because it lies very deep and the cost of extraction is very high. India is not producing much oil, rather she has to import nearly 74 per cent of her total consumption. So the only alternative with India is to have a cheaper and more dependable source of energy. The known reserves of thorium in India are sufficient to last many hundred years. That is why India has already commissioned two nuclear power stations, one at Tarapur and the other at Rana Pratap Sagar. Each one has the installed capacity of producing 420 M.W. of electricity. Two others at Kalpakkam, are operational. This energy will be able to meet the power shortage throughout the country. If industries work at their full capacity, production will be higher and so per capita income will increase and inflation will be neutralized.	
(3)	With the help of controlled nuclear explosions, artificial dams can be made. In fact, for building a dam there should be two huge mountain walls enclosing a deep valley just near the course of a river. These conditions are not available at all the places. So, with the help of controlled nuclear explosions mountains can be blown up. This can also help in laying roads in the mountainous areas. In fact, some of the borders of India have mountainous terrain and the movement of the army is quite difficult. So even for the sake of national security, it is necessary to have roads in those areas.	
(4)	With the help of radiation, the shelf life of vegetables and fruits can be increased. In tropical countries like India, it is necessary that the perishable fruit is preserved for a longer time. Radiation can check the sprouting of onions and potatoes which are much in demand in foreign countries. Similarly, fruits like bananas and mangoes which have much export potential can be preserved for a very long time. The texture and taste of the fruit do not undergo any change.	

(5)	Nuclear technology can also be harnessed for medical purposes. It is said that radioactive iodine is used for detecting the disease of the thyroid glands. Similarly, 'India of U.N. experts, radiated a vaccine which can immunize sheep from lungworm disease, which used to take a heavy toll of sheep every year.	
(6)	Properly processed nuclear fuel is also used for artificial satellites in space. Weather satellites can predict cyclones and the rainfall with extreme accuracy. Communication satellites can help in conveying the messages to very long distances. In a huge country like India, communication satellites are necessary.	
(7)	Radiation is also used for preparing the mutant seeds. Many varieties of rice and some cereals have been prepared at Tarapur laboratory. This will increase our agricultural production and help India to become economically better off. So for India it is necessary to make peaceful uses of nuclear energy.	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions -	12 Marks
i	India needs nuclear energy in order to _____. A. gain status in the community of nations B. meet her power shortage C. increase her might D. frighten the hostile countries	1
ii	Coal, another source of energy, cannot be extracted commercially because _____. A. it lies very deep B. the cost of extraction is very high C. it lies very deep and the cost of extraction is very high D. it is risky for the miners to extract it	1
iii	In India _____ are sufficient to last many years. A. nuclear power stations B. reserves of thorium C. vegetables and fruits D. D. radioactive iodine	1
iv	For preparing mutant seeds the usage of _____ is essential. A. Nuclear energy B. Artificial satellites C. Radiation D. None of these	1
v	Unlike America, Russia and China, India believes in _____ use of nuclear energy. A. peaceful B. satellite C. medical D. explosive	1
vi	Hydroelectric power is not dependable because _____.	1

vii	Explain in brief how radiation can be helpful? How does nuclear technology help in the field of medicine?	2
viii	Describe India's stance regarding the use of nuclear technology as mentioned in the passage, and explain why the fear expressed by Pakistan and comments in the Chinese press are characterized as propaganda.	2
ix	In what way can nuclear energy boost our communication?	2
2	Read the passage given below —	10 Marks
(1)	We often make all things around us the way we want them. Even during our pilgrimages, we have begun to look for whatever makes our heart happy, gives comfort to our body and peace to the mind. It is as if external solutions will fulfill our needs, and we do not want to make any special efforts even in our spiritual search. Our mind is resourceful and it works to find shortcuts in simple and easy ways.	
(2)	Even pilgrimages have been converted into tourism opportunities. Instead, we must awaken our conscience and souls and understand the truth. Let us not tamper with either our own nature or that of the supreme.	
(3)	All our cleverness is rendered ineffective when nature does a dance of destruction. Its fury can and will wash away all imperfections. Indian culture, based on Vedic treatises, assists in human evolution, but we are now using our entire energy in distorting these traditions according to our convenience instead of making efforts to make ourselves worthy of them.	
(4)	The irony is that humans are not even aware of the complacent attitude they have allowed themselves to sink into. Nature is everyone's Amma and her fierce blows will sooner or later corner us and force us to understand this truth. Earlier, pilgrimages to the places of spiritual significance were rituals that were undertaken when people became free from their worldly duties. Even now some seekers take up this pious religious journey as a path to peace and knowledge. Anyone travelling with this attitude feels and travels with only a few essential items that his body can carry. Pilgrims traditionally travelled light, on foot, eating light, dried chickpeas and fruits, or whatever was available. Pilgrims of olden days did not feel the need to stay in special AC bedrooms, or travel by luxury cars or indulge themselves with delicious food and savouries.	
(5)	Pilgrims traditionally moved ahead, creating a feeling of belonging towards all, conveying a message of brotherhood among all they came across whether in small caves, ashrams or local settlements. They received the blessings and congregations of yogis and mahatmas in return while conducting the dharma of their pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is like penance or sadhana to stay near nature and to experience a feeling of oneness with it, to keep the body healthy and fulfilled with the amount of food, while seeking freedom from attachments and yet remaining happy while staying away from relatives and associates.	

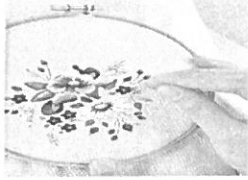
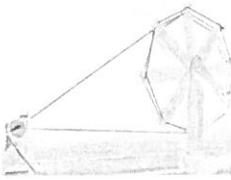
(6)	This is how a pilgrimage should be rather than making it like a picnic by taking a large group along and living in comfort, packing in entertainment, and tampering with the environment. What is worse is giving a boost to the ego of having had a special darshan. Now alms are distributed, charity is done while they brag about their spiritual experiences!	
(7)	We must embark on our spiritual journey by first understanding the grace and significance of a pilgrimage and following it up with the prescribed rules and rituals. This is what translates it into the ultimate and beautiful medium of spiritual evolution. There is no justification for tampering with nature.	
(8)	A pilgrimage is symbolic of contemplation and meditation and acceptance, and is a metaphor for the constant growth or movement and love for nature that we should hold in our hearts. This is the truth !	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.	
i	Pick out the option that is not true according to the passage: 'A pilgrim can keep his body healthy _____.' 1. by travelling a lot of places 2. by travelling light 3. by keeping free from attachment 4. by eating small amount of food 5. by eating snacks and rich food A. Both 1 and 2 B. only 2 C. 1, 3, 4, and 5 D. only 4	1
ii	Explain how pilgrimages have transformed into tourism opportunities, as described in the passage.	2
iii	Pick out the option that means the same as 'render' given in paragraph 3. A. withhold B. suppress C. results in D. conceal	1
iv	As per your understanding of the passage, choose the words that best describe the response of the nature against cleverness shown by us. 1. Catastrophic 2. Gratifying 3. Buoyant 4. Detrimental A. 2 and 3 B. 1 and 4 C. 1 and 2 D. 3 and 4	1
v	Complete the following analogy. Pilgrims: sadhana: _____ : nature	1
vi	According to the passage, how do we satisfy our ego?	1
vii	Discuss the negative consequences of tampering with the environment during pilgrimages, as mentioned in the passage, and why such practices should be avoided.	2

viii	Choose the word from the given options which means the same as 'complacent' para (4) A. Very traditional B. Very satisfied C. Very cruel D. Very lethargic	1
	SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	18 MARKS
3	Attempt ANY ONE of the given two, in about 50 words.	
A.	You are Adhira/Adhiraj from Lotus Petal international school. You lost your wallet in the school playground. Write a notice for your school notice board giving all the necessary details such as colour, amount of money, essential cards etc., in not more than 50 words.	4
	OR	
B.	As teacher co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of AMM School, Pune. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students about the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week to participate in it.	
4.	Attempt ANY ONE of the given two, in about 50 words.	
A.	You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand lunch at home.	4
	OR	
B.	Draft a formal reply in not more than 50 words accepting an invitation to be present on the occasion of the wedding of Ankush S/o Mr. & Mrs. Shankar of 24, Green Park Road, Kanpur. You are Vikram Gaur of Raj Mandi, Agra.	
5.	Attempt ANY ONE of the given two, in about 50 words.	
A.	Two main parks in your locality have been suffering from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result, the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.	5
	OR	
B.	You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 120-150 words.	
6.	Attempt ANY ONE of the given two, in about 50 words.	
A.	You are Jay/Jaya, studying in Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trichy. Some students of your school attended a first aid training camp for a week at Red Cross Headquarter of the state. Write a report for your school magazine in 120-150 words on the events of the camp and your school's participation and contribution to it.	5
	OR	

B.	Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article in 120-150 words on 'Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure. You are Gopal/Govindi.	
SECTION C : LITERATURE		40 MARKS
7.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two.	6
A.	... But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle...." "He had read our minds correctly." Rajendra Prasad comments, "and we had no reply ... Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance". Self-reliance, Indian independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together.	
i	Gandhi taught the sharecroppers a lesson of self-reliance so that - A. they could believe in themselves and be self-dependent. B. they get to know to fight amongst themselves only. C. they understand that British could not be trusted D. they learn and follow civil disobedience	
ii	Find out the word from the given extract which means the same as 'fiercely'.	
iii	Throw some light on the Englishman talked about in the passage.	
iv	Gandhi's decision to let the poor sharecropper not take help from the Englishman backfired in the long run. (True/False)	
v	Assertion (A) : Gandhi was vehemently opposed to letting Andrews help him in Champaran. Reason (R) : Because Gandhi was always suspicious of new people who offered help. A. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A. B. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. C. A is true but R is false. D. A is false but R is true	
vi	"He had read our minds correctly," Rajendra Prasad commented. What is the sentiment exposed here? (i) anger (ii) acceptance (iii) understanding (iv) forgiveness (v) arrogance A. (i), (ii) and (iii) B. (ii), (iv) and (v) C. (i) only D. (ii) and (iii)	
OR		
B.	Once upon a time there was a man who went around selling small rattraps of wire. He made them himself at odd moments, from the material he got by begging in the stores or at the big farms. But even so, the business was not especially profitable, so he had to resort to both begging and petty thievery to keep body and soul together. Even so his clothes were in rags, his cheeks were sunken, and hunger gleamed in his eyes.	

i	'The peddler had to resort to both begging and thievery.' This sentence demonstrates that:- A. the peddler was very greedy. B. the peddler does not like to sit idle. C. the peddler wants to become rich. D. the peddler's earning was not enough for survival.	
ii	Through the peddler's appearance it is signified that he was _____.	
iii	The peddler's rattraps were made of _____.	
iv	What is the underlying message of the line, 'his clothes were in rags, his cheeks were sunken, and hunger gleamed in his eyes.'	
v	Explain the idiom 'keep body and soul together' mean?	
vi	Identify the manner in which the extract is written.	
8.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two.	4
A.	Derry : [Panic] I've got to go. Mr. Lamb : Not on my account. I don't mind who comes into the garden. The gate's always open. Only you climbed the garden wall. Derry : [Angry] You were watching me. Mr Lamb : I saw you. But the gate's open. All welcome. You're welcome. I sit here. I like sitting.	
i	"Mr Lamb : Not on my account." Based on this line, do you think Mr. Lamb was angry with Derry?	
ii	What does the statement "Only you climbed the garden wall" mean? A. Everyone got permission before entering into the garden. B. Mr. Lamb wanted Derry to be punished. C. Derry was the only person to sneak in through the wall. D. Derry doesn't know the location of the gate.	
iii	Assertion (A) : Mr. Lamb is a generous old man who welcomes everyone. Reason (R) : He had been threatened to not stop people from coming into the garden. 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. Both A and R are false. D. A is true but R is false.	
iv	Do you think Derry has the right to be angry at Mr. Lamb?	
	OR	
B.	His father had taken him often to the islands of those seas, and never had he failed to say to the little brave boy at his side, "Those islands yonder, they are the stepping stones to the future for Japan." "Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously. "Who knows?" his father had answered. "Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it"	

i	Explain the relevance of Pearl S Buck behind the phrase, "Those islands yonder."							
ii	The speaker by 'stepping stone' means:- 1. Means of advancement 2. Means of progression 3. Means of disorganization 4. Means of paucity A. Option 1 B. Option 1 and 2 C. Option 3 D. Option 3 and 4							
iii	Pick out the option that best describes the word 'yonder' as used in the passage. 1. Distant 2. Accessible 3. Proximate 4. Non-adjacent 5. Adjoining 6. Far-flung A. 1, 2 and 3 B. 4, 5 and 6 C. 1, 4 and 6 D. 2, 3 and 5							
iv	"Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously. Which of the following words can replace the word 'seriously' as given in the above line? A. Fairly B. Earnestly C. Insignificantly D. Slightly							
9.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two.	6						
A.	The polished traffic passed with a mind Ahead, Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts At having the landscape marred with the artless paint Of signs that with N turned wrong and S Turned wrong							
i	Choose an option that states the complaint that the city people had with the roadside stand. A. The artless paint of the roadside stand. B. poor people asking for alms. C. No N & S sign boards. D. unhygienic products.							
ii	The poor people "marred" the landscape. The term "marred" means. A. lavish B. beautified C. damaged D. dignified							
iii	Identify the poetic device of underlined phrase "The polished traffic passed with a mind Ahead" A. Personification B. Transferred Epithet C. Tautology D. Synecdoche							
iv	The road signs were turned wrong. This shows that the owner of the roadside stand was ____.							
v	Identify the feeling that the poor people have when the rich people complain about the roadside stand. <table border="1"><tr><td>1. Infuriated</td><td>2. Nostalgic</td><td>3. Happy</td><td>4. Sluggish</td><td>5. Vital</td><td>6. Demotivated</td></tr></table> A. 3, 5 and 6 B. 1, 2, and 4 C. 1 and 6 D. only 5	1. Infuriated	2. Nostalgic	3. Happy	4. Sluggish	5. Vital	6. Demotivated	
1. Infuriated	2. Nostalgic	3. Happy	4. Sluggish	5. Vital	6. Demotivated			
vi	Complete the following statement. 'The attitude of the city dwellers towards their rural brethren is ____.'							
OR								

B.	Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.	
i	How would you describe Aunt Jennifer based on the above extract?	
ii	Uncle's wedding band sits heavily on Aunt Jennifer's hand because _____.	
iii	Pick the option that displays the image which correctly corresponds to the type of task Aunt is engaged in.  (i)  (ii)  (iii)  (iv) A. Option (i) B. Option (ii) C. Option (iii) D. Option (iv)	
iv	Which of the following is an example of an alliteration? A. Finger fluttering through the wool B. Upon Aunt Jennifer's hand C. Ivory needle hard to pull D. Massive weight of Uncle's wedding band	
v	The word, 'fluttering' means: - A. The falling of raindrops B. The palpitations of one's heart C. Moving unsteadily and irregularly with trembling D. The swift movements of one's hand	
vi	Identify the rhyming scheme of the extract?	
10.	Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each.	2x5=10
i	Why was Franz not reprimanded by M. Hamel despite arriving late at school?	
ii	Assess the impact and significance of the crofter's hospitality in relation to the peddler. (The Rattrap)	
iii	How does the statement, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished," discuss the importance of perseverance and self-belief in overcoming challenges in life? (Deep Water)	
iv	"Unlike many celebrities who were apprehensive to give interviews, Umberto Eco much to our delight liked them." Justify the statement.	
v	What makes human beings love life in spite of all the troubles they face in light of the poem "The Thing of beauty?"	
vi	Interpret the main symbol of the poem "The Aunt Jennifer's Tiger".	
11.	Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.	2x2=4
i	Dr. Sadao was a calm person in general. What made him raise his voice at Hana? How did she react?	
ii	Derry's mother carried preconceived notions about Mr. Lamb. What were those and was she right?	

iii	"It is so easy to judge others and give advice, but much more difficult to apply it to ourselves." Elaborate with reference to the character of Sam in 'The Third Level.'	
12.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.	5x1=5
A.	In the lesson 'The Lost Spring', the author describes the pathetic condition of child labourers like Saheb and Mukesh. In 'Poets and Pancakes', the narrator describes the glamorous world of the film industry, where people like the boss and the film stars enjoy a privileged life. Imagine yourself in the place of Saheb / Mukesh and today you happened to visit Gemini Studio. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings as you witnessed the extravagant lifestyle of the people at the Gemini Studio. You may begin like this: I found myself blessed and unfortunate at the same time when I visited the Gemini Studio. I say this because....	
	OR	
B.	The stories, 'Going Places' and 'The Rattrap,' deal with the theme of social mobility. However, they approach the theme in different ways. In 'Going Places,' Sophie is determined to escape her impoverished circumstances and achieve a better life. In 'The Rattrap,' the peddler is initially content with his life of petty crime, but later wants to change his ways. Compare and contrast the two stories in terms of their portrayal of social mobility. How do Sophie and the peddler's different backgrounds and motivations influence their journeys?	
13.	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.	5x1=5
A.	'The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities.' The given statement reflects a profound perspective on the human experience. Using examples from the lesson 'On the Face of it' discuss the importance of empathy and understanding in society, and how individuals and communities can work towards reducing the sense of alienation felt by people with disabilities.	
	OR	
B.	In 'The Third Level,' Charlie discovers a mysterious train station leading to another time. In 'The Tiger King,' the protagonist is obsessed with hunting tigers. How do the characters in both the stories reflect the consequences of pursuing their dreams and desires? Discuss the contrast by analyzing the consequences of their actions in light of their personal aspirations.	

