

ENGLISH ELECTIVE – CODE 131
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
CLASS XII – (2026-27)

Total Time: 3 Hours

Marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This paper is divided into **THREE** sections:
 - A. SECTION A – *Reading Skills* - 20 marks
 - B. SECTION B – *Grammar & Writing* - 28 marks
 - C. SECTION C – *Literature Textbook* - 32 marks
2. Separate instructions are given with each part and question, whenever necessary.
3. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING

20 Marks

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. 12x1=12

- (1) The old railway station stood at the edge of the town like a forgotten memory. Every morning, the same whistle pierced through the mist, and yet the station remained deserted except for a few tea vendors and tired travellers. Arun, the station master, had worked there for nearly twenty years. He had once dreamed of becoming an engineer in the city, but life had quietly redirected him toward this lonely platform.
- (2) Arun spent most of his afternoons watching trains disappear into the horizon. He often imagined the lives of the passengers seated behind the dusty windows—students carrying ambitions, workers returning home, children laughing over shared snacks. Their movement contrasted sharply with the stillness of his own life. Sometimes he would take out an old diary and write brief reflections about the changing seasons, the fading colours of the station walls, or the endless patience of waiting.
- (3) Among the regular visitors to the station was Meera, a twelve-year-old girl who sold flowers near the entrance. She had lost her parents at a young age and lived with her grandmother in a nearby village. Every evening she would hand Arun a marigold garland and ask, "Will any important train stop today?" Arun would smile faintly and reply, "Every train is important to someone."
- (4) During the monsoon months, heavy rains flooded the tracks and delayed services for hours. Travellers became restless, but Meera seemed delighted by the weather. She danced barefoot in puddles while humming old folk songs. Arun often wondered how she managed to find joy so easily despite hardship.
- (5) One winter evening, a passenger train halted unexpectedly at the station because of a technical failure. The platform, usually silent, came alive with voices and movement. Vendors hurried around selling tea and snacks. Children leaned out of

windows to watch the rainwater dripping from the roofs. Arun felt an unfamiliar warmth spread through him. For the first time in years, the station no longer seemed abandoned.

- (6) As mechanics repaired the train, Meera moved from compartment to compartment selling flowers. A little boy purchased a garland and placed it around his mother's neck. The woman laughed softly, and Meera's face glowed with pride. Watching the scene, Arun realised that small gestures often carried the deepest meaning.
- (7) Late at night, the train was finally ready to depart. Passengers settled into their seats once again, and the whistle echoed across the dark fields. Before leaving, the little boy waved at Meera from the window. She waved back enthusiastically until the train vanished into the distance.
- (8) Silence returned to the station, but it no longer felt heavy. Arun looked at the empty tracks and thought about the countless arrivals and departures that shaped human life. Some people stayed only briefly, yet they left behind memories capable of transforming ordinary moments into lasting ones.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions (Any Twelve): Each question carries one mark.

- I. Arun felt disconnected from his own life because he _____.
 - A. disliked working at the station.
 - B. envied the movement and ambitions of travellers.
 - C. wanted to become a teacher.
 - D. was afraid of trains.
- II. Identify what Arun usually wrote in his diary about.
 - A. Complaints about passengers
 - B. Stories about his childhood
 - C. Reflections about life and the station
 - D. Technical details of trains
- III. From the following, choose the trait which best describes Meera's personality.
 - A. She was bitter and impatient.
 - B. She was cheerful despite difficulties.
 - C. She disliked meeting strangers.
 - D. She avoided hard work.
- IV. The unexpected halt of the train transformed the station into a place that was:
 - A. noisy and lively
 - B. more deserted
 - C. fearful for the people
 - D. completely damaged
- V. Identify the literary device used in the line "the whistle pierced through the mist".
 - A. Simile
 - B. Personification

- C. Hyperbole
D. Irony
- VI. Arun's observation of Meera selling flowers helped him realise that:
A. wealth is necessary for happiness
B. travelling changes people completely
C. small acts of kindness have deep significance
D. children should not work.
- VII. Choose the correct meaning of the word "horizon" as used in paragraph 2.
A. A crowded market
B. The line where earth and sky appear to meet
C. A railway crossing
D. A mountain path
- VIII. The passengers in the train mainly represent:
A. different journeys of life
B. fear of travelling
C. economic struggles only
D. loneliness and silence
- IX. Meera enjoyed the monsoon season despite the train delays because she:
A. enjoyed dancing and singing in the rain.
B. wanted the station to close early.
C. disliked selling flowers.
D. was afraid of the weather.
- X. Explain the contrast between Arun's quiet, unchanging life and the constantly moving lives of the passengers.
- XI. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.
The station became lively when the train stopped unexpectedly.
- XII. Complete the sentence appropriately.
Arun realised that small gestures often carried _____.
- XIII. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.
Meera enjoyed the monsoon season even though the trains were delayed.
- XIV. State the quality of Meera that impressed Arun the most, with reference to the text.
- XV. Mention the reason why the little boy placed the garland around his mother's neck, with reference to the text.

2. Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

4x1=4

The river moves in silver light,
Beyond the hills, beyond the night.
It carries whispers from the trees,
And songs that travel with the breeze.

Along its banks the grasses bend,
As if they listen without end.
The drifting clouds above the sky,
Float slowly, silently passing by.

The moon leans softly on the stream,
As though the world were half a dream.
While stars above in silence stay,
To watch the darkness fade away.

A distant bird begins to sing,
Its voice awakening the spring.
And through the calm, the waters glide,
Like hidden thoughts the heart must hide.

Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions (Any Four): Each question carries one mark.

- I. The river in the poem symbolises:
 - A. destruction and fear
 - B. movement and continuity
 - C. anger and violence
 - D. confusion and chaos
- II. Complete the sentence appropriately.
The phrase "half a dream" suggests that the atmosphere is _____.
- III. Mention the mood created in the poem, with reference to the text.
 - A. Tense and frightening
 - B. Peaceful and reflective
 - C. Humorous and cheerful
 - D. Angry and critical
- IV. Identify the poetic device used in the line "The moon leans softly on the stream".
 - A. Hyperbole
 - B. Personification
 - C. Irony
 - D. Repetition
- V. State the symbolic meaning of the fading darkness.

3. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. 4x1=4

Digital learning has transformed education across the world. Students today can access educational material, attend online classes, and collaborate with teachers through digital platforms. This shift has increased flexibility and improved access to quality education in remote areas. Educational apps, recorded lectures, and virtual classrooms have enabled students to continue learning beyond the boundaries of traditional classrooms.

Many schools now use smart boards, online assessments, and interactive activities to make learning more engaging and effective. Digital education has also helped working students and learners in distant regions gain access to quality resources that were previously unavailable to them.

However, unequal access to technology and internet connectivity continues to remain a challenge. Many rural families still struggle with limited digital devices and poor network facilities. Experts believe that improving digital infrastructure and spreading awareness about online learning can help bridge this gap and make education more inclusive for all students.

Usage of Digital Learning Platforms

Year	Percentage of Students
2019	38%
2020	61%
2021	72%
2022	76%
2023	81%

Source: National Digital Education Survey

Internet Availability in India

Area	Urban Areas	Rural Areas
Internet Availability	88%	52%

Source: Ministry of Education Report

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions. (Any Four): Each question carries one mark.

- I. State the main advantage of digital learning mentioned in the passage.
 - A. Reduction in school buildings
 - B. Access to quality education and flexibility
 - C. Elimination of teachers
 - D. Increase in homework
- II. Mention the challenge related to digital learning platforms highlighted in the passage.
- III. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Digital learning has helped students continue learning beyond traditional classrooms.

- IV. Complete the sentence appropriately. Experts believe that improving digital infrastructure can help _____.
- V. Explain what does the data suggest about the use of digital learning platforms between 2019 and 2023.

SECTION B – APPLIED GRAMMAR & WRITING

28 Marks

4. Transform the following sentences as directed. Attempt ANY EIGHT. 8x1=8

- I. The box is too heavy for the child to lift. (Begin: The box is so...)
- II. Hardly had the teacher entered the class when the students became silent. (Begin with: No sooner...than)
- III. The committee decided to examine the issue in detail. (Rewrite using the noun form of 'examine')
- IV. "Do you know the answer to this question?" the teacher asked Rohan. (Change into indirect speech)
- V. Music was the only thing that relaxed him after work. (Begin: Only...)
- VI. The road was so narrow that buses could not pass through it. (Begin: The road was too...)
- VII. Neha enjoys painting. She also enjoys photography. (Combine using 'as well as')
- VIII. I had never heard such a beautiful melody before. (Begin: Never...)
- IX. Unless you follow the instructions carefully, you may make mistakes. (Begin: If...)
- X. The notice read, "Keep the corridor clean." (Begin: The notice instructed...)

5. Attempt ANY THREE of the following questions in 120–150 words each. 3x5=15

- I. The rapid growth of technology has transformed the way students learn and access education. Write an analytical essay discussing the advantages and disadvantages of online learning for students. Support your ideas with suitable examples and logical arguments.
- II. Effective communication is considered one of the most essential skills in today's fast-changing world. Write a discursive piece on the importance of good communication skills in modern life. Discuss how communication influences personal relationships, confidence, and professional success.
- III. Literature has always played an important role in reflecting society and inspiring social change. Write an essay interpreting the role of literature in shaping social awareness. Explain how stories, poems, and plays influence human values, emotions, and society.

- IV. Sports and physical activities contribute greatly to the overall development of students beyond academics. Discuss the importance of sports in developing discipline, teamwork, confidence, and leadership qualities among young people.

6. Read the questions below and attempt ANY ONE of the following. 1x5=5

- I. You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Your school recently organised an Inter-House Debate Competition that witnessed enthusiastic participation from students. Write a detailed report describing the event, the topics discussed, the performances of the participants, and the overall response of the audience.

OR

- II. In today's digital age, the habit of reading books among young people is gradually declining. Write an engaging article highlighting the importance of reading habits and suggesting effective ways to encourage students to develop a love for reading.

SECTION C – TEXTBOOK

32 Marks

7 (I). Attempt ANY ONE of the following extracts:

6x1=6

(A) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

"She sat at the window watching the evening invade the avenue. Her head was leaned against the window curtains and in her nostrils was the odour of dusty cretonne. She was tired. Few people passed. The man out of the last house passed on his way home; she heard his footsteps clacking along the concrete pavement. At one time there used to be a field there in which they used to play every evening with other people's children."
(*Eveline*)

- 1) State the feelings of Eveline reflected in the opening description.
- 2) Mention the memories Eveline recalls while sitting at the window.
- 3) Highlight how the description of the evening contributes to the mood of the extract.
- 4) In what way does the extract reflect Eveline's inner conflict?
- 5) Explain the presentation of Eveline's emotional attachment to her past in the passage.
- 6) Choose the word closest in meaning to "odour".
 - A. fragrance
 - B. smell
 - C. silence
 - D. brightness

OR

(B)

"Dreaming means nothing," she said with a smile, "but no one can take away from us what we have eaten." She spoke with calm confidence, as though she had long accepted the uncertainties of life. The narrator listened quietly, fascinated by her strange wisdom and practical outlook towards life. Her words left a deep impression on the narrator, who continued to reflect upon them long afterwards." (*I Sell My Dreams*)

- 1) State the practical attitude towards life revealed by the speaker in the extract.
- 2) Highlight the philosophy of life reflected in the speaker's statement.
- 3) Mention the reason the speaker values practical experiences more than dreams.
- 4) Describe the narrator's response to the speaker's unusual wisdom.
- 5) Explain the deeper message about human survival and reality conveyed through the extract.
- 6) Choose the correct synonym for "attitude".
 - A. behaviour
 - B. belief
 - C. memory
 - D. silence

7 (II). Attempt ANY ONE of the following extracts.

6x1=6

(A) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

"In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round." (*Kubla Khan*)

- 1) State the kind of atmosphere created in the extract.
- 2) Highlight what the "sacred river" symbolises in the poem.
- 3) Explain the meaning of the phrase "caverns measureless to man".
- 4) Identify the poetic device used in the phrase "sunless sea".
- 5) Describe the picture of Xanadu created by the poet in the extract.
- 6) Choose the word closest in meaning to "stately".
 - A. grand
 - B. weak
 - C. ordinary
 - D. narrow

OR

(B)

"The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans." (*The Wild Swans at Coole*)

- 1) State the atmosphere created in the extract.
- 2) Highlight what the swans symbolise in the poem.
- 3) Explain the phrase "autumn beauty".
- 4) Describe the image created by the line "Mirrors a still sky".
- 5) Identify the poetic device used in "Mirrors a still sky".
- 6) Choose the word closest in meaning to "twilight".
 - A. dawn
 - B. evening
 - C. storm
 - D. shadow

8. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 30–40 words.

1x2=2

- I. Describe how the chapter *A Wedding in Brownsville* presents the complexity of human relationships and emotions.

OR

- II. Present the themes of change, loss, and the passage of time as shown in the poem *The Wild Swans at Coole*.

9. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 40–50 words.

1x3=3

- I. In what way does the poem *Time and Time Again* highlight the effects of communal violence and intolerance on society?

OR

- II. Describe how *The Mark on the Wall* explores the themes of imagination, uncertainty, and human thought.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120–150 words.

1x5=5

- I. Social discrimination and untouchability often create deep divisions in society and human relationships. Discuss how *Chandalika* presents the themes of self-realisation, social injustice, and human dignity.

OR

- II. Literature often helps readers understand human emotions, relationships, and the complexities of life in a deeper way. Discuss D.H. Lawrence's views on the significance of novels in *Why the Novel Matters*.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 30–40 words. 1x2=2

I. Describe the factors that make Raja in *A Tiger for Malgudi* feel trapped between the world of humans and animals.

OR

II. Explain the role of greed in Margayya's life in *The Financial Expert*.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 40–50 words. 1x3=3

I. In what way does the character of the Master represent compassion and discipline in *A Tiger for Malgudi*?

OR

II. Explain how Margayya's ambition gradually leads him towards moral decline.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120–150 words. 1x5=5

I. Human beings and animals often struggle between the desire for freedom and the control imposed by society. In *A Tiger for Malgudi*, examine the relationship between power, freedom, and captivity.

OR

II. Excessive ambition and greed can often lead to moral decline and personal downfall. Discuss the rise and downfall of Margayya in *The Financial Expert* as a commentary on greed and materialism.