Marking Scheme

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Senior Secondary Supplementary School Examination, 2026 (XII)

SUBJECT NAME- English Core (Q.P. CODE /Set No. 1/7/3)

General Instructions: -

1	You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2	**"Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in Newspaper/Website, etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC."**
3	Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one's own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on latest information or knowledge and/or are innovative, they may be assessed for their correctness otherwise and due marks be awarded to them. In Class-XII, while evaluating two competency-based questions, please try to understand given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is enumerated by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.**
4	The Marking scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, the due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5	The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zero after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6	Evaluators will mark (√) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer CROSS 'X' be marked. Evaluators will not put right (✓) while evaluating which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7	If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totaled up and written in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may be followed strictly.

8	If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may also be followed strictly.
9	If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note **"Extra Question"**.
10	No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
11	A full scale of marks _____ (example 0 to 80/70/60/50/40/30 marks as given in Question Paper) has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
12	Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e., 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).This is in view of the reduced syllabus and number of questions in question paper.
13	Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past :- ● Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book. ● Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it. ● Wrong totaling of marks awarded on an answer. ● Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page. ● Wrong question wise totaling on the title page. ● Wrong totaling of marks of the two columns on the title page. ● Wrong grand total. ● Marks in words and figures not tallying/not same. ● Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list. ● Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark is correctly and clearly indicated. It should merely be a line. Same is with the X for incorrect answer.) ● Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
14	While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks.
15	Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totaling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions be followed meticulously and judiciously.
16	The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the "**Guidelines for Spot Evaluation**" before starting the actual evaluation.
17	Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totaled and written in figures and words.
18	The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners/Additional Head Examiners/Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per value points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

MARKING SCHEME

Senior Secondary Supplementary School Examination, 2026 (XIIth)

ENGLISH CORE (Subject Code- 301)

(Question Paper Code: 1/7/3)

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: **Maximum Marks: 80**

1. **The answers given below are suggestive. Any independent interpretation should be discussed with the HE before awarding marks.**
2. **No marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word-limit.**
3. **If a spelling error is recurring, it should be penalized only once.**

	SUGGESTED VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION A **READING SKILLS**	**22 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of the reading section is to focus on testing a candidate's ability to comprehend. No mark(s) should be deducted for mistakes in usage and grammar, spelling or word-limit. Full marks may be awarded if a student has been able to identify the core ideas. If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted for this, as long as it is relevant.	
1.	**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.**	**12 marks**
i.	**Why does the author say that social media usage is a reflection of relationships ?**	
Ans.	because the type of content someone shares often reflects their values and self-perception, which are key aspects of personal identity	1
ii.	**Mention any two benefits of 'social media'.**	
Ans.	• an extension of human social connection / enhances connection/ means of maintaining social bonds/ integral part of relationship maintenance • fulfils fundamental human needs for belonging • integral part of modern communication • integral part of identity formation • helps to adapt to an increasingly mobile world • serves as a platform for self-expression and creativity **(any two)**	1+1
iii.	**Complete the following sentence suitably with one difference between the author's opinion and that of people about social media.** **Generally, people do not readily accept _____.**	
Ans.	that social media can be positive or neutral rather than problematic/ social media as something that fulfils the fundamental human need for belonging	1

iv.	**There is also a behavioural distinction to be drawn between active and passive engagement in social media. (Paragraph 4)** **Based on the above statement, classify the following sentences as active or passive engagement.** **Sentence 1 : Meera posted photos of her art exhibition and responded to every comment.** **Sentence 2 : Aditya spent two hours scrolling through his feed without liking or commenting on anything.**	
Ans.	Sentence 1 - active engagement Sentence 2 – passive engagement	½ + ½
v.	**Choose the correct option :** **..... mindful social media use can 'enhance connection' (Paragraph 6)** **The above statement is true because :** **(A) We can maintain relationships despite physical distance.** **(B) We always enjoy seeing what others are doing.** **(C) We believe everything that we see posted online.** **(D) To connect, one needs to follow many accounts.**	
Ans.	(A) We can maintain relationships despite physical distance.	1
vi.	**Complete the following suitably:** **The author puts forth the fact that people can never _____ (avoid/appreciate) social media.**	
Ans.	avoid	1
vii.	**Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 2.** **genuine : authentic : : _____ : fabricated** **(A) idealised (B) curated** **(C) shallow (D) extension**	
Ans.	(B) curated	1
viii.	**In the line 'People tend to view social media as synonymous with shallow interactions, digital obsession .....' (Paragraph 2)** **By the phrase 'digital obsession', the writer means _____.**	
Ans.	uncontrolled usage of digital devices , platforms / spending too much time on digital devices , platforms/ addiction to digital devices/ excessive use of social media	1
ix.	**What type of social media usage does the author disapprove of and why ?**	
Ans.	**what:** social media use that fosters unhealthy comparisons/ contributes to poor self-image **why:** as no one benefits	1+1

x.	**The phrase – 'It is something that fulfils the fundamental human need for belonging' suggests that social media should not merely be associated with shallow interactions.** **Choose the correct response (A) or (B) which confirms that the concern this phrase points towards is about :** **(A) Some types of social media engagement should be avoided.** **(B) Social media can be viewed as part of our need for social connection.**	
Ans.	(B) Social media can be viewed as part of our need for social connection.	1
	Passage 2	
2	**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**	**10 marks**
i.	**Choose the correct option :** **..... instrumental music outperforms vocal music for study efficiency.** **The above statement is true as :** **(A) Instrumental music is less distracting than songs with lyrics.** **(B) Classical compositions are inherently superior to modern music.** **(C) Students prefer instrumental music as they can play the instruments.** **(D) Vocal processing interferes with memory formation.**	
Ans.	(A) Instrumental music is less distracting than songs with lyrics.	1
ii.	**Why does the author suggest that classical Indian ragas have unique benefits for concentration?**	
Ans.	contain specific melodic / structured mathematical patterns/ patterns that stimulate neural (neutral) pathways associated with logical thinking	1
iii.	**How does the author validate the claim that classical Indian music improves performance ?**	
Ans.	conducted a survey, results of which show classical Indian instrumental music produced the highest performance improvement at 33.5%, compared to other music types	2
iv.	**''The ideal study environment is highly individualised.'' Analyse the statement with reference to the text.**	
Ans.	As per the survey – • students have shown performance improvement based on their individual music preferences • students are encouraged to experiment with different music conditions to determine what works best for their individual cognitive styles **(any one)**	1
v.	**Complete the following suitably :**	

	The author puts forth the fact that personal music preference should not be the only _____ for selecting study accompaniment.	
Ans.	criterion/ basis/ way/ parameter (any other relevant answer)	1
vi.	**Paragraph 4 includes the phrases, ''preference'' and ''performance improvement''.** **Classify the following sentences according to these concepts.** **Sentence 1 : Most students chose to listen to popular music with lyrics during study sessions.** **Sentence 2 : Test scores improved by 33·5% when students studied with classical Indian instrumental music.**	
Ans.	Sentence 1 – preference Sentence 2 – performance improvement	½ + ½
vii.	**Give two points to support how music selection makes a major impact on study effectiveness.**	
Ans.	• tempo /complexity of music significantly affected concentration levels • students preferring classical Indian music demonstrated higher performance enhancement • instrumental compositions without lyrics yielded better result than vocal music/ enhanced study effectiveness • absence of lyrics/ structured melodic patterns/ appropriate tempo affected optimal auditory study environment **(any two)**	1+1
viii.	**Read and complete the following sentence suitably :** **The study is very relevant in contemporary times, because :** **(A) music is increasingly accessible to students.** **(B) academic pressure requires optimal study methods.** **(C) classical traditions are being forgotten.** **(D) concentration challenges are more prevalent with digital distractions.**	
Ans.	(D) concentration challenges are more prevalent with digital distractions.	1
	SECTION B **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS**	**18 marks**
	OBJECTIVES: • To test the ability to think logically and express clearly. • To use a style appropriate to the given situation. • To plan, organize and present ideas coherently.	
3	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words :**	**1x4=4 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1**	

	FORMAT - Name of issuing authority- organization / agency, NOTICE, heading, date of issue, signature, name, designation (bottom left), all enclosed in a box • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	NOTICE WRITING	
(a)	**You are Ritu/Ritesh, President of the Environment Club of your school. Your school is organising a week-long class clean-up competition. Draft a notice informing the students of Classes VI – X about the competition. Invent necessary details. Put your notice in a box.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points: • name of event • date/duration, venue • target classes, any other details • contact information **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	4
	OR	
(b)	**Your school is planning to conduct a 5-day pottery workshop after school hours for students of the Art and Craft Club. Write a notice informing students and inviting participation. Include necessary details. Put your notice in a box.**	
Ans.	Suggested value points: • name of event • date/duration, venue • target classes, any other details • invite participation • contact information **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	4
4.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B) in about 50 words.**	**1x4=4 marks**
	Distribution of marks **Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1** • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	

	FORMAL REPLY	
(a)	**You are Surekha/Suresh, Chief Scientist at the Indian Institute of Science. You have received an invitation from the Principal of Stars Academy to be the Chief Guest at the graduation ceremony of Class XII students. Draft a reply expressing your inability to attend the event.**	
Ans.	Formal reply **(Formal letter)** Format –Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name Suggested value points: • express thanks • acknowledge the invitation with event, date, time and venue • decline the invitation • reason for refusal • convey best wishes • formal and cordial tone **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	4
	OR	
	INFORMAL REPLY	
(b)	**You are Kiran/Kunal of Rohini, Punjab. Your friend has invited you to join a volunteer programme at a local animal shelter. Write an informal reply accepting the invitation.**	
Ans.	Informal reply **(Informal letter)** Format –Sender's address, Date, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name Suggested value points: • express thanks • acknowledge the invitation with event, date, time and venue • accept the invitation • cordial tone **(inputs given in the question to be included)**	4
5.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two (A) or (B) in 120 - 150 words.**	**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Formal Letter Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 2** FORMAT –Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Name • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	

	LETTER TO EDITOR	
(a)	**As president of the RWA, you have introduced a Youth Volunteer Initiative – Youth Warriors. Children from the resident community volunteer, engage and partner with the community through various projects. As a programme, it has been very successful and the residents too have appreciated and encouraged these champions of change. Write a letter to the editor sharing your views on the need to encourage youth engagement.** **You may use the following cues along with your own ideas.** • youth participation in community development • understanding community issues and civic responsibilities • demonstrating collaboration and a shared commitment • simple projects – environment clean-up, senior citizen outreach, and waste management awareness	
Ans.	Suggested Value Points: • channelising youthful energy • promoting active citizenship • youth representation in RWAs • digital volunteering platforms for promoting general well-being • youth leadership clubs **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any four points)** **(any other relevant point)**	5
	OR	
	JOB APPLICATION	
(b)	**You are Manisha/Mahesh of Saket Colony, Mumbai. You have recently come across the following advertisement and wish to apply for the position. Write an application for the position along with your bio-data.** **Next Gen Solutions** **Requires** **Digital Marketing Executives** **• Qualifications : Degree in Marketing/Business Administration/Digital communication with minimum 1 year experience in planning and executing digital marketing campaigns across various platforms** **• Skills Required : Knowledge of SEO, Social media marketing, content creation and basic**	

	Apply to the Marketing Manager, Next Gen Solutions, Marine Drive, Mumbai.	
Ans.	Suggested Value Points: **Covering letter** • Reference to advertisement • Mention qualifications • Offer candidature • Suitability for the post **Bio-Data / Resume / CV** • Personal details • Educational qualification • Work experience • Skills and achievements • References • Enclosures if any **Note: no marks to be deducted if the Bio-data /Resume/CV is included in the covering letter** **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	5
6.	**Attempt ANY ONE of the two (a) or (b) in 120 - 150 words.**	**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Format -1 Content – 2 Expression - 2** FORMAT -1 - Title and by-line • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	ARTICLE WRITING	
(a)	**From individual celebrations to community festivals — there is a move to strengthen community cohesion and bring people together. In a society of increasing loneliness, it is important to create these bonds for both the individual, and the overall health of the community. You are Raksha/Rakesh. Write an article for your school magazine on 'The Importance of Community Festivals'. You may use the following cues with ideas of your own to compose the article.**	

	• **brings people together and builds community ties** • **promotes, preserves, showcases culture** • **creates shared memories**	
Ans.	Suggested Value Points: • encourages cooperation and volunteerism fostering team spirit • promotes understanding, respect for diversity and social harmony • strengthens sense of belonging and identity making people feel connected to their neighbourhood • provides relaxation and emotional well-being **(inputs given in the question may be included)** **(any four points)** **(any other relevant point)**	5
	OR	
	REPORT WRITING	
(b)	**You are Deepa/Dinesh of Class XII B and a member of the School Social Service Club. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as volunteers in the Each One Teach One initiative as part of the community outreach programme. You may use the following cues to help you create the report.** **Who - What – When – Where – Why – How**	
Ans.	Suggested Value Points: • what – name and theme of event - 'Each One Teach One' • when- date, day/ duration • where- venue of event • who – details of participation • why- purpose of event • how – details of activities / impact **(inputs given in the question to be included)** **(any other relevant point)**	5
	SECTION C **LITERATURE**	**40 marks**
	NOTE: The objective of this section is to test a candidate's ability to understand and interpret the prescribed text through short and long answer type questions. Long answer type questions have been set to test the students' understanding of the text and their ability to interpret, evaluate and respond to the issues raised therein. Hence, no particular answer can be accepted as the **only** correct answer. All presentations may be accepted as correct with consultation of the HE, if they have been duly supported by the facts drawn from the text. The student should be able to justify his / her viewpoint.	

	In the Inter- textual questions reference to both the texts must be included.	
7.	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (a) or (b) :**	**6x1=6 marks**
(a)	**Such the sun, the moon,** **Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon** **For simple sheep; and such are daffodils** **With the green world they live in; and clear rills** **That for themselves a cooling covert make** **'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,** **Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;** **And such too is the grandeur of the dooms** **We have imagined for the mighty dead;** **All lovely tales that we have heard or read;** **An endless fountain of immortal drink,** **Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.** **(A Thing of Beauty)**	
i.	**The expressions 'shady boon' and 'cooling covert' are used by the poet to indicate the _____ quality of nature.**	
Ans.	protective / nurturing / calming / rejuvenating / refreshing/ soothing **(any other relevant answer)**	1
ii.	**Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.** ***Assertion :*** **The poet believes stories and myths add to life's beauty.** ***Reason :*** **The 'grandeur of the dooms' comforts humans.** **Choose the correct option regarding their relationship :** **(A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.** **(B) Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is *not* the correct explanation of the Assertion.** **(C) Assertion is true, but Reason is false.** **(D) Assertion is false, but Reason is true.**	
Ans.	(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are correct but Reason is not the correct explanation.	1
iii.	**Select the correct option from those given in the brackets, to fill in the blank.** **According to the poet, the trees, the sun, the moon, the flowers are things of _____ (beauty/disdain).**	
Ans.	beauty	1

iv.	**What does the imagery of an 'endless fountain' not represent in the given extract?** **poet in the given extract:** **(A) abundance (B) eternity** **(C) limitation (D) sustenance**	
Ans.	(C) limitation	1
v.	**Complete the following suitably:** **The beautiful tales that we have heard or read give us _____.**	
Ans.	happiness / joy / hope / inspiration (any other relevant answer)	1
vi.	**Complete the sentence suitably :** **Keats paints a picture of an endless fountain of nectar that pours of _____.**	
Ans.	heaven / heaven's edge / heaven's brink / abundance / things of beauty / immortal drink	1
	OR	
(B)	**Those who prepare green wars,** **wars with gas, wars with fire,** **victory with no survivors,** **would put on clean clothes** **and walk about with their** **brothers** **in the shade, doing nothing.** **What I want should not be** **confused** **with total inactivity.** **Life is what it is about;** **I want no truck with death.** **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** **and of threatening ourselves with** **death.** **(Keeping Quiet)**	
i.	**Select the phrase that suggests the following :** **The poet feels that the whole speculation of wars would be negated as there will be no one left to enjoy the result.**	
Ans.	victory with no survivors	1
ii.	**What does the imagery of 'green wars' not represent in the given extract?**	

	(A) soil erosion (B) deforestation **(C) conservation (D) pollution**	
Ans.	(C) conservation	1
iii.	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.** **The poet clarifies that what he wants should not be misunderstood as _____. (procrastination/death)**	
Ans.	death	1
iv.	**Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.** **Assertion (A) : The poet criticizes humanity's obsession with constant activity.** **Reason (R) : Our busy lives prevent us from understanding ourselves.** **Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:** **(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion .** **(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.** **(C) Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.** **(D) Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.**	
Ans.	(A) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion	1
v.	**Complete the following suitably:** **Walking with fellow human beings in the shade symbolises _____.**	
Ans.	feeling of oneness / unity / brotherhood / harmony / peace	1
vi.	**State in one sentence, the significance of productive silence as brought out by the poet in this excerpt.**	
Ans.	Enables us to introspect and understand ourselves/ interrupts the sadness of never understanding ourselves **(any other relevant answer)**	1
8.	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	**4x1=4 marks**
(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 detail. 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. (Memories of Childhood)**	

i.	**What emotion did the narrator initially feel on seeing the elder carrying the packet by the string ?** **(A) anger** **(B) amusement** **(C) disgust** **(D) sympathy**	
Ans.	(B) amusement	1
ii.	**What realization struck the narrator while speaking with her brother about the elder ?** **(A) people from their community were forbidden from eating vadai** **(B) they must never question the actions of elders** **(C) caste-based discrimination was responsible for their humiliation** **(D) elders were not respectful towards food**	
Ans.	(C) caste-based discrimination was responsible for their humiliation	1
iii.	**Who does 'us' in the passage refer to ?**	
Ans.	people of lower caste / dalits.	1
iv.	**How might the discrimination mentioned in the passage help us to build a more inclusive society ?**	
Ans.	understand that it is wrong and find ways to bring a change	1
	OR	
(b)	**Human civilisations have been around for a paltry 12,000 years — barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time, we've managed to create quite a ruckus, etching our dominance over Nature with our villages, towns, cities, megacities. The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature.** **(Journey to the end of the Earth)**	
i.	**What does the author suggest about human impact on the Earth ?**	
Ans.	created significant environmental damage / created a ruckus/ etched their dominance over nature/ increase in average global temperature in a very short span of their existence. **(any other relevant answer from the given extract)**	1
ii.	**Complete the following suitably :** **On the geological clock, human civilizations have existed for _____.**	
Ans.	barely a few seconds/a paltry 12,000 years.	1
iii.	**Cite evidence from the passage that indicates that humans and other species compete with each other.**	
Ans.	rapid increase of human population has left us battling with other species for limited resources.	1
iv.	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blanks.**	

	In the given excerpt, the main reason for the increase in the temperature world wide is the _____ (stoppable/unstoppable) burning of fossil fuel.	
Ans.	unstoppable	1
9.	**Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :**	**6x1=6 marks**
(a)	**At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and of course very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like 'freedom' and 'democracy'. Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience — no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement — what are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?** **(Poets and Pancakes)**	
i.	**Choose the correct option :** **How did the Boss introduce the English poet to the audience ?** **(A) with detailed knowledge about his work** **(B) with a speech about freedom and democracy** **(C) by reading the poet's famous poems** **(D) by discussing Indian cinema**	
Ans.	(B) with a speech about freedom and democracy	1
ii.	**Choose the correct option from those given in brackets.** **''He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience.'' The statement reflects the audience's _____ (engagement/bewilderment)**	
Ans.	bewilderment	1
iii.	**''Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage.'' This phrase indicates :** **(A) technical problems at the studio.** **(B) the poet's discomfort with the heat.** **(C) the Boss struggling to be heard.** **(D) a dramatic performance by the Boss.**	
Ans.	(C) the Boss struggling to be heard.	1
iv.	**Complete the following suitably :** **The presence of an English poet in a film studio that makes Tamil films showcases the author's _____.**	
Ans.	confusion / bafflement / bewilderment	1

v.	**Complete the following suitably :** **''The whole thing lasted about an hour, then the poet left and we left in utter bafflement.''** **The mood of the Gemini Studios staff after the poet's speech was _____.**	
Ans.	confused / baffled / bewildered / perplexed.	1
vi.	**Complete the following with a suitable reason :** **The audience dispersed in utter bafflement because _____.**	
Ans.	they could not understand his accent / did not know what he was talking about / did not understand the purpose of his visit	1
	OR	
(b)	**Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14th October 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston'. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, "Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it," Yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G. Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to 'the interviewing ordeal', but was a fairly frequent interviewee.....** **(The Interview)**	
i.	**Complete the following suitably :** **Kipling's 'condemnatory attitude' towards interviews indicates _____.**	
Ans.	his dislike/ disgust towards interviews/ his negative opinion / harsh views about interviews / he didn't like being interviewed	1
ii.	**Select the textual option that is closest to indicating the disruption of the day's plan.** **(A) why do I refuse to be interviewed** **(B) it is cowardly and vile** **(C) wrecked by two reporters** **(D) was a fairly frequent interviewee**	
Ans.	(C) wrecked by two reporters	1
iii.	**Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank :** **''Kipling's comparison of interviews to assault reflects his _____ towards this journalistic practice.''** **(ambivalence/hostility)**	
Ans.	hostility	1
iv.	**Complete the following statement suitably :**	

	The author points out Kipling's hypocrisy by mentioning that _____.	
Ans.	he had himself interviewed Mark Twain some years ago.	1
v.	**What does the following line from the extract showcase ?** **It is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment.** **(A) affirmation** **(B) disgust** **(C) acceptance** **(D) denial**	
Ans.	(B) disgust	1
vi.	**Choose the correct option :** **Caroline's response to the reporters is an indication of her _____ acceptance of interviews as necessary despite personal discomfort.** **(A) impractical** **(B) visionary** **(C) pragmatic** **(D) idealistic**	
Ans.	(C) pragmatic	1
10.	**Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each:**	**5x2=10 marks**
	Distribution of marks: **Content – 1 Expression – 1**	
i.	**Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home ? (The Rattrap)**	
Ans.	he mistook the peddler for his old acquaintance/regimental comrade/Captain von Stahle	2
ii.	**The children in Firozabad often lose their eyesight before becoming adults. Explain. (Lost Spring)**	
Ans.	the dust from polishing glass bangles / working in poor lighting for long hours in dingy rooms harmed their eyes	2
iii.	**''Sophie felt a tightening in her throat. She went to look for her brother Geoff.'' In the light of this quote, discuss the relationship Sophie shared with Geoff. (Going Places)**	
Ans.	Sophie liked/ trusted Geoff most in her family / imagined him to have a glamorous, mysterious life and wanted to be a part of it	2
iv.	**What does the expression 'polished traffic' reveal about the city dwellers ? (A Roadside Stand)**	
Ans.	affluence / indifferent to the plight of the villagers / self-centred	2
v.	**How does Eco find the time to write so much ? (The Interview)**	
Ans.	Eco works in empty spaces, i.e. interstices/ while waiting for someone, he would use the time to write an article.	2

vi.	**Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of a 25-percent refund to the farmers ? (Indigo)**	
Ans.	to break the deadlock between the peasants and the British landlords / to let peasants know that they had rights and defenders / to show peasants that the British were not above law	2
11.	**Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each.**	**2x2=4 marks**
	Distribution of marks:- **Content – 1 Expression– 1**	
i.	**Why does Sam urge Charley and Louisa to keep looking for the Third Level ? (The Third Level)**	
Ans.	Sam had found third level and felt it was worth coming to / believed it was a peaceful and joyful place, far from the stress of modern life.	2
ii.	**State one reason why the Maharaja ordered fifty diamond rings for the British officer's wife. (The Tiger King)**	
Ans.	to please the British officer/ to save his kingdom.	2
iii.	**Why does Derry's mother forbid him from going back to Mr. Lamb ? (On The Face Of It)**	
Ans.	had heard many things about him/ wanted to protect Derry	2
12.	**Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 - 150 words.**	**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks: - **Content – 3 Expression– 2** EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
(a)	**Both poems, 'My Mother at Sixty-six' and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', explore women's experiences of vulnerability and strength but in distinctly different circumstances and landscapes. Elucidate.**	
Ans.	My Mother at Sixty Six • Landscape (setting) – journey from home to airport in a car • Vulnerability – Physical : old age, fear of death; Emotional: separation, loneliness, grief • Strength – hides her grief, smiles bravely, remains hopeful Aunt Jennifer's Tigers • Landscape (setting) – confined to domestic space and symbolic world of art • Vulnerability – Social: trapped in an oppressive marriage, Psychological: dominated by fear and oppression • Strength – expresses freedom through art/ embroidery, finds an outlet in her embroidery, creating tigers that embody the freedom and power she lacks. **(any other relevant point)** **(any three points, at least one point from each text)**	5
	OR	

(b)	**Both 'The Last Lesson' and 'Deep Water' explore the transformative power of fear but in contrasting ways. How does Franz's fear of losing his language differ from Douglas's struggle to conquer his fear of water. Discuss with reference to the given texts.**	
Ans.	Franz in 'The Last Lesson' • origin and nature of fear – change in political order • reaction to fear – emotional: fear of loss of cultural heritage and language/ decides to hold on to his French identity/ effort awakened in the face of loss • change in attitude - starts valuing books/ listens to the teacher attentively/ regrets not taking his studies seriously while there was time/ wishes to be able to recite rule of participles • transformation through regret Douglas in 'Deep Water' • origin and nature of fear – childhood trauma • reaction to fear – physical and mental: paralysis and terror/ couldn't lead a normal life • change in attitude - realises only thing to be afraid of is fear itself/motivates him to learn swimming and conquer the phobia/ desire to lead a normal life/ undergoes rigorous training to conquer his fear • transformation through discipline, persistence and refusal to give up **(any other relevant point of contrast/ comparison)** **(any three points, at least one point from each text)**	5
13.	**Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 - 150 words.**	**1x5=5 marks**
	Distribution of marks:- **Content – 3 Expression– 2** EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
(a)	**To choose between professional loyalty and patriotism was a dilemma for Dr. Sadao. How did Dr. Sadao emerge as a saviour for humanity ? (The Enemy)**	
Ans.	• despite knowing the risks, decided to operate and saved an enemy • held his ground despite opposition from his servants / the possibility of being declared a traitor • being patriotic informed the General but continued to care for the POW • waited for assassins before making arrangements for the POW to escape • balanced his duty with patriotism without compromising his conscience - proves that humanity is above enmity **(any other relevant point)**	5

	(any three)	
	OR	
(b)	**'It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.' Justify the statement with reference to the extracts in 'Memories of Childhood'.**	
Ans.	• both witness discrimination as children • as children, Zitkala Sa revolts and resists the cutting of her hair; Bama feels upset about the oppression of their caste • both realise the importance of education to gain courage and confidence • as adults, both fight oppression by writing about discrimination **(any other relevant point)** **(any three)**	5

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