

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN (LUCKNOW REGION)

CUMULATIVE EXAM- 2023-24

ENGLISH CORE (301)

CLASS - XI

MAX. MARKS- 80

TIME-3 Hours

General Instructions:

(i)The Question Paper is divided into Three Sections.

Section A – Reading Skills – 26 Marks

Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills – 23 Marks

Section C – Literature- 31 Marks

(ii)All questions are compulsory.

Section A (Reading Skills) – 26 Marks

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow-

1. Soil is your garden's natural growing medium, so it's vital for the health and successful growth of your plants and crops that you keep it well maintained. Soil is basically rock that's been ground down by the effects of the weather over a long period of time and made fertile by decayed organic matter (derived from dead insects and leaves). There are hundreds of different soil types, but they can broadly be classified as sandy, loamy or clay, referring to their basic texture. It is the texture that affects the drainage, aeration and nutrient content of the soil and you may have to take steps to improve on this in certain types of soil.

2. Take a handful of soil and run a small amount between your forefinger and thumb. Although all soils contain varying proportions of sand, silt and clay, you'll readily be able to tell the difference between the main types.

3. Sandy soil feels gritty when dry and even its wet particles will not stick together. Loams, on the other hand, can be moulded in the hand when moist, but aren't at all sticky and gritty and are fairly loose when dry. Clay soil is sticky and smooth when wet, but becomes polished when rubbed and baked hard when dry.

4. A loamy soil is a well-balanced amalgamation of sand, silt and clay, which combines excellent drainage with sufficient moisture retention to assure good growing conditions for most plants. It's fairly easy to look after, although loamy soils do benefit from regular applications of well-rotted organic matter to prevent getting tightly packed.

5. The particle consistency of sandy soil doesn't hold water well, with the result that plant foods are often taken away by rain before they can do any good. Again, well-rotted organic matter can be added to bind the soil particles together.

6. Clay soil is most difficult to work, usually becoming waterlogged, so they are virtually impossible to dig. Artificial drainage will probably be the first step in improving the texture

of the soil and various additives will break down the structure to make use of its excellent food stocks.

7. There are various methods of improving your soil's texture. Essentially this requires regular applications of a well-rotted organic substance called humus, which is obtained from decayed plant and animal matter (manure, compost, and seaweed, each provides ample sources).

8. The presence of chalk in soil can also affect the growth of plants: some prefer slightly acid (chalk-free) soils, while others grow more successfully in alkaline, chalky soils. Most fruits and vegetables, however, grow better in neutral soil.

9. Although benefiting the soil in some ways, compost, manure and fertilizers can actually add to its acidity, as organisms break them down. Over-acid soils can be treated with applications of lime—either hydrated (slaked) lime, or ground limestone (chalk). Of the two, ground limestone is your best choice.

10. To apply lime, sprinkle it on the broken top soil and mix it lightly but don't dig in; leave to wash down by rain. Apply lime every other year if need be. An alkaline soil can be treated with manure, garden compost or peat, well dug in.

A. Answer Any TEN of the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option- 1x10=10 Marks

1. We should keep soil well maintained as.....

- (a) it absorbs and retains water
- (b) it responds to the effects of weather
- (c) it raises water table
- (d) it is the garden's natural growing medium.

2. Soil is divided into various types on the basis of.....

- (a) colour
- (b) drainage
- (c) texture
- (d) aeration

3. Loamy soil is the best for plant growth because.....

- (a) it is a well-balanced mixture of sand, silt, and clay
- (b) it has weak drainage and retention
- (c) its texture responds slowly to decayed organic matter
- (d) it gets tightly packed unless looked after well

4. Clay soils are the most difficult to work as.....

- (a) they don't hold water well
- (b) they usually become waterlogged
- (c) the soil particles are not held together
- (d) they require natural drainage and additives

5. Soil must be tested before growing fruits and vegetables because

- (a) they need alkaline soil
- (b) they prefer slightly acidic soil

- (c) they grow better in neutral soil
- (d) they flourish in over-acidic soil

6. 'Consistency' in para 5 means.....

- (a) in agreement with
- (b) having same opinion
- (c) thickness
- (d) firmness

B. Answer the following questions in brief-

7. Which soil is the best for plant growth? Why?
8. What do you know about clay soils?
9. Why should soil be tested before growing fruits and vegetables?
10. How can texture of soil be improved?
11. Write the similar meaning to
 - (a) Firmness (para 5)
 - (b) Collection or accumulation (para 4)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow-

Mother Teresa: A Humanitarian

Mother Teresa was a humanitarian. This means she did things to help out other people. Her entire life was devoted to helping the poor, the sick, the needy and the helpless.

Mother Teresa was born in Uskub, Ottoman Empire on 26th August, 1910. This city is now called Skopje. Her birth name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Her father died when she was eight and she was raised by her mother. She joined the Sisters of Loreto at the age of 18 to become a missionary in India. She first had to learn English. So she went to Ireland to learn English at the Loreto Abby.

A year later she started her missionary work in Darjeeling, India. She learnt the local language, Bengali, and taught at the local school. She soon took her first vows as a nun and took the name, Teresa.

When she was 36 years old, she felt the call from God to help the poor of India. She received some basic medical training and then set out to help the sick and the needy. This wasn't an easy task in 1948 India. She had very little support and, while trying to feed and help the poorest of the poor, she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food.

Soon other women joined her and she formed the Missionaries of Charity. Mother Teresa described the purpose of the Missionaries of Charity as an organisation to take care of "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who fed unwanted, unloved and uncared for throughout society."

It wasn't an easy task to build such an organisation and to keep the focus on the poorest people. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace. She was beatified in 2003, the first step on the path to sainthood, within the Catholic church. She worked almost up until her death on 5th September, 1997.

1. Mother Teresa was called because her entire life was devoted to helping the poor, the sick, the needy and the helpless.

- a) philanthropic
- b) a humanitarian
- c) a sympathiser
- d) merciful

2. Mother Teresa was born in Uskub, now known as, on 26th August,

- a) Skopje, 1899
- b) Basra, 1911
- c) Skopje, 1910
- d) None of these

3. She went to Ireland to learn..... at the Loreto Abby.

- a) English
- b) Irish
- c) Hindi
- d) Bengali

4. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu changed her to Teresa when she as a nun.

- a) left Ireland for India
- b) joined the Sisters of Loreto
- c) took her vows
- d) None of these

5. When did she decide to help the poor in India?

6. What hardships did she face while helping the poor?

7. The purpose of the Missionaries of Charity, according to Mother Teresa, is.....

8. Why was Mother Teresa honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize?

3. Read the passage and answer the questions given below

1. There is a clear dichotomy between Jayashankar Prasad's daily life and the one that found expression in his literature. In his literary formulations, Prasad advocated an escape- from personality ideals and categorically stated: "An artist's art, and not his person, is the touchstone to assess his work . . . it is only after losing his personality that he emerges in his art as an artist".

2. In Prasad's works – his poems, short stories, novels, dramas etc. – what emerges is life as shaped in the writer's inner self by his emotions, fancies, dreams, reveries . . . His writings are a record not of outer reality, but of the artist's inner world. As such, of a proper appreciation and understanding of his works more emphasis needs to be placed on the working of his mind, than the events of his day-to-day life.

3. Prasad was born in a renowned family of Varanasi. His grand-father Shiv Ratan Sahu, a dealer in high quality perfumed tobacco (snuff). Besides being an astute businessman, he was endowed with a marked cultural taste. His home was the meeting place of the local poets, singers, artists, scholars and men of religion. Prasad's father Devi Prasad Sahu carried forward this high tradition of family. Prasad, therefore, had a chance to study the various

phases of human nature in the light of the business traditions, artistic taste and religious background of his family.

4. When the business had somewhat recovered, Prasad planned the publication of a literary journal. Prasad started the "Indu". The inaugural number appeared in July 1909. By this time Prasad's notions of literature had crystallized into a credo. In the first issue of Indu, he proclaimed, "Literature has no fixed aim; it is not a slave to rules; it is a free and all-embracing genius, gives birth to genuine literature which is subservient to none. Whatever in the world is true and beautiful is its subject matter. By dealing with the True and Beautiful it establishes the one and affects the full flowering of the others. Its force can be measured by the degree of pleasure it gives to the readers mind as also by the criticism which is free of all prejudice". The words sound like the manifesto of romanticism in literature.

5. Even while recognizing the social relevance of literature, Prasad insisted, "The poet is a creator . . . he is not conditioned by his milieu; rather it is he who moulds it and gives it a new shape; he conjures up a new world of beauty where the reader for the time being, becomes oblivious of the outer world and passes his time in an eternal spring garden where golden lotuses blossom and the air is thick and pollen". Thus, the chief aim of literature according to Prasad is to give joy to the reader and to create a state of bliss in him. Later under the impact of Shiv Advaitism, this faith of Prasad got further strengthened.

(Extract from 'Jayashankar Prasad- His mind and Art' by Dr. Nagendra)

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it **5 Marks**

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. **3 Marks**

Section B

(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills) 23 Marks

Grammar 7 Marks

4.Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option given below- 1X4=4 Marks

As soon as I saw the elephant, I knew certainly that I ought not (a)..... him. But at the moment I (b)..... round at the crowd that (c) _____ and were eager for fun and meat. The crowd (d)..... the road for a long distance on either side.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) (i) shoots | (ii) is shooting. | (iii)shot | (iv) shoot |
| (b) (i) glances | (ii) glanced | (iii) is glancing | (iv) will be glancing |
| (c) (i) follow | (ii) follows | (iii) following | (iv) had followed |
| (d) (i)has blocked | (ii) had blocked | (iii) will be block | (iv) blocks |

5.Rearrange the following words or phrases to make meaningful sentences
1x3=3 Marks

1.die/ would rather/ up/ She/ give/ than/ her freedom

2.been/ Ambassador/ has/ Tendulkar/ named as the Rio Olympics' Brand/ Sachin

3.age/ to/ the/ under/ of/ Children/ are not permitted/ eighteen/ drive

Creative Writing Skills

(16 Marks)

6.You are Ashmit/Ashmita of 403, Gomtinagar , Lucknow. You want to sell your flat as you are shifting to another city for work. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in The Pune Times under the classified columns. **3 Marks**

OR

You are Ram/Rajani. Draft a classified advertisement, in not more than 50 words, to be published in India Times for the sale of a used motor car giving all the necessary details. You can be contacted at 12345679. **3 Marks**

7. As the President of Leo Club of Temple Town, prepare a poster on behalf of Lions Club and Leo Club for 'Diwali Mela' to be held at Nehru Stadium, mentioning some of the attractions. **3 Marks**

OR

Prepare a poster on kindness of animals to be displayed in the city at public places appealing to people to show kindness to animals. **3 Marks**

8. You are Ankit/Ankita. You have to deliver a speech on the topic "Education Gives One Power". You have jotted down the following notes:
Education trains mind—sharpens skill and abilities—Education: a source of power—
improve self—be independent—earn money—ignorance to knowledge—removes
superstition—develops a free spirit—important for women: gives them freedom from social
ills—-independent—responsible.
Write your speech in 150-200 words.

OR

Manish has to speak in debate supporting the motion that life in the country (a village) is preferable to life in the city. Below you can see his notes. Use the information to develop Manish's speech in 150-200 words.

COUNTRY (A VILLAGE) peace and quiet—soothing air—fresh and pure green fields all around—lovely sight helpful neighbours

CITY

vehicles—smoke

industries—smoke-pollution

crowded streets

people hurry—never relax

9. You are Mukul / Mahima of Alps Public School. Your school has organized a debate on “Social Media and It’s Effects” and you will be participating in your school. Prepare your views against or in favour of the motion. (120 – 150 words) **5 Marks**

OR

Are celebs responsible for the products they endorse? Taking a cue from the headlines given below and using your own ideas, write a debate for or against the topic. (about 150-200 words)

Amitabh Bachchan steps back from promoting Pepsi after a school girl questions the health impact of the drink.

Brief ban on Maggi noodles causes trouble for its celebrity Brand ambassadors.

10. Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow-

3x1=3 Marks

All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother’s, that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.

Questions

- (i) What does ‘three’ refer to?
- (ii) When and where was the photograph taken?
- (iii) Bring out the comparison between the sea and the ‘feet’.

OR

Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow-

And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,

Questions

- (i) Name the poem and the poet.
- (ii) What does the phrase strange to tell mean?
- (iii) Why does the rain call herself the ‘Poem of the Earth’?

11. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow-

3x1=3 Marks

My grandmother, like everybody’s grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe. My grandfather’s portrait hung above the mantelpiece in the drawing room. He wore a big turban and loose-fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked at least a hundred years old.

1. Name the chapter.

- A The Portrait of a Lady
- B The Lady of a Portrait
- C The Portrait with a Lady
- D The Portrait of a Grandmother

2. Name the author.

- A Khushwant Singh
- B A.R. Williams
- C Marga Minco
- D Kalki

3. What literary device is employed in “Like everyone’s grandmother”?

- A Metaphor
- B Simile
- C Transferred Epithet
- D Personification

OR

IN July 1976, my wife Mary, son Jonathan, 6, daughter Suzanne, 7, and I set sail from Plymouth, England, to duplicate the round the-world voyage made 200 years earlier by Captain James Cook. For the longest time, Mary and I — a 37-year-old businessman — had dreamt of sailing in the wake of the famous explorer, and for the past 16 years we had spent all our leisure time honing our seafaring skills in British waters.

Q1. Name the chapter from which the extract has been taken.

Q2. Name the author of the given lines.

Q3. Mention all the family members as given in the above extract.

12. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow-

4x1=4 Marks

Perhaps I was mistaken, I thought, perhaps it isn't her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly, and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side. She was wearing my mother's green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that I was looking at the cardigan and half hid herself again behind the door. But I knew now that I was right.

1. Name the chapter.

- A) The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse
- B) The Address
- C) Ranga's Marriage
- D) Albert Einstein at School

2. Who is the author of The Address?

- A) Alphonse Daudet
- B) Tishani Doshi

- C) Marga Minco
- D) William Saroyan

3. Who opened the door?

- A) Mrs. S
- B) Mrs. S's daughter
- C) Mrs. Dorling
- D) None of these

4. Find out the synonym of the word 'Pale' from the following?

- A) Greenish
- B) Yellowish
- C) Brownish
- D) Reddish

OR

Read the extract to attempt the questions that follow=

'Mrs. Pearson: I might. Who d'you think?

Doris [Staring at her]: Mum—what's the matter with you?

Mrs. Pearson: Don't be silly.

Doris: [Indignantly] It's not me that's being silly— and I must say it's a bit much when I've been working hard all day and you can't even bother to get my tea ready. Did you hear what I said about my yellow silk?

Mrs. Pearson: No. Don't you like it now? I never did.

Doris [Indignantly]: Of course I like it. And I'm going to wear it tonight. So I want it ironed.

Mrs. Pearson: Want it ironed? What d'you think it's going to do—iron itself?

1 Identify the tone in which Mrs. Pearson talks.

- (A) Cool and intellect
- (B) Flattering and apologetic
- (C) Brave and strong
- (D) Taunting and angry

2 Why is Doris consistently reacting 'indignantly' towards her mother Mrs. Pearson?

- (A) The mother is not listening to her
- (B) The mother is angry at her as well
- (C) The mother is acting unusual
- (D) All of the above

3. What does the passage reflect upon the relationship between Doris and Mrs. Pearson?

- (A) Doris only talks to her mother to get her work done
- (B) Doris cherishes her mother and likes to spend time with her
- (C) Doris uses her mother's dresses to look better
- (D) Both (b) and (c)

4. Mrs. Pearson is Doris for getting over dependent on her.

- (A) taunting
- (B) scolding
- (C) hinting
- (D) comical

13. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words each- 3x2=6 Marks

1. How was Tut able to undo the activities of Akhentan?

OR

2. Give a brief description of the boat 'Wavewalker'. How did the narrator equipped and tested it?

3. Why is the mother goldfinch bird 'alert' while entering the thickness?

OR

4. What according to the poem, is involved in the process of growing up?

14. Answer Any ONE the following questions in 40-50 words each- 3x1=3 Marks

1. Who was the real owner of the beautiful white horse ? How did Aram come to know about him ?

OR

2. What Does Mrs Fitzgerald Speak to Do by Herself? What Was the Reaction by Mrs Pearson?

15. Answer Any ONE the following questions in 120-150 words - 6 Marks

Trace the interest of the old grandmother in the education of the author. Do you think her concern was misplaced?

OR

What were the problems that were faced by Howard Carter related to Tut's mummy? How was he able to resolve them?

16. Answer Any ONE the following questions in 120-150 words - 6 Marks

Write in brief about the narrator's visit to 46, Marconi Street.

OR

We talk of women's liberation movement but it is a grim and sad reality that our women, except some, are slaves of the wheel as they were in the past. What place do women have in Indian society? Discuss.

