



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION

ENGLISH CORE-Code No. 301

Class-XII-(2025-26)

SET: 2



MARKING SCHEME

General Instructions: -

1. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression, and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
2. If a student has attempted an extra question, the answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note “Extra Question”.
3. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer to multiple-choice questions, then no marks are awarded.

SECTION A - READING SKILLS		22 marks
1.	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	12
I	b) formed a high, cathedral-like canopy of darkness and light	1
II	b) burden of anxieties and small, persistent worries	1
III	b) friendly and recognizing	1
IV	language/vocabulary	1
V	Persistence	1
VI	c) reflective and restorative	1
VII	The city is portrayed as noisy, urgent and burdening; the forest is calm, spacious and restorative, offering silence and measured rhythms that ease Liam’s tensions.	2
VIII	He experiences gradual relief: his anxieties loosen, he gains perspective, and though not cured, he can carry less of his burden than before.	2
IX	b) nature’s indifference to human plans	1
X	listening / space/solace	1
2.	Answer the following questions, based on the given passage	10
I	Technology	1
II	c) A → 2 B → 3 C → 1	1
III	Urban areas have better internet infrastructure, higher digital literacy, and greater access to smartphones, making it easier for residents to use mobile wallets compared to rural areas.	1
IV	Cards (debit/credit)	1
V	False	1
VI	b) Small Biz	1

VII	Digital Literacy Programs: Educate rural populations to increase awareness and trust in digital payments. Infrastructure Development: Enhance internet and mobile connectivity to facilitate easier access to digital payments.	2
VIII	Financial inclusion refers to ensuring that all individuals and businesses, including those in rural and underserved areas, have access to affordable and convenient financial services. Eg. promoting the use of digital payments across all demographics to make economic transactions accessible, transparent, and efficient for everyone.	2
	SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	18 marks
3.	Notice: Format :1 Box, name of issuing authority- organisation/ agency (top centre), NOTICE (centre), date of issue (aligned left) Authorisation name, designation & signature (bottom left) NOTE-full credit if all aspects are included. Partial credit (½ mark) if one or two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing. Content: 2 Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1	4
4.	Invitation: Format – 1 Content -2 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1 A- (Card type - formal/third person) B- (Letter type – first person reply)	4
5.	A. Job Application Format: 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organisation of Ideas: 1 ▪ Content: 2 Job Application Letter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reference to the advertisement ▪ Conveying suitability for the position (as advertised) ▪ Submission of application Bio data as a separate enclosure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Profile of self ▪ Educational Qualifications (include advertised requirements) ▪ Work experience/s (if relevant) ▪ References ▪ Any other relevant information ▪ Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1 <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> B. Letter to the Editor Format: 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (Note -use of ‘Yours truly’ at close) Content: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organisation of Ideas: 1 ▪ As per cues + ideas ▪ Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: :1 	5

6.	<p>A. Report Writing Format: 1 Organisation of Ideas: 1 Content: 2 Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar :1</p> <p>Format: • Headline & Byline (use of the name provided), Reporting place and date.</p> <p>Paragraphing organisation (Introductory paragraph + one or two Body paragraphs including event details + Concluding paragraph inclusive of witness accounts)</p> <p>Organisation & Content: Who: name of the sponsor/organizer, event, What and how: events/ programme details, When and where: date, time, place- town/ city/venue, what did those present think/ observations/ comments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B. Article Writing Format: 1 Organisation of Ideas: 1 Content: 2 Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1</p> <p>Format: Title & Byline (Use of the title: “The World of Apps and Their Importance Today,” and name: Manaal Shah- provided).</p> <p>Organisation & Content: Use of the given cues.</p>	5
SECTION C LITERATURE		40 marks
7.	Read the following extracts and answer ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	1x6=6
A		
I	c. Aunt Jennifer’s unhappy married life.	1
II	True	1
III	Alliteration	1
IV	Her frail fingers represent weakness and fear, while the wedding band represents the dominating power of patriarchy.	1
V	a. Male chauvinism and patriarchy	1
VI	c. Aunt Jennifer feels completely powerless and exhibits no inner strength at all.	1
OR		
B		
I	The poet urges those who create war and destruction to cease fighting and instead choose peace and unity. He imagines them putting on clean clothes, which means they leave behind bloodshed and start fresh.	1
II	c. futility	1
III	d. Irony and paradox	1
IV	d. repose	1
V	a. Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A	1
VI	“doing nothing” means taking a break from harmful actions. It is not about being lazy but about stopping violence and living in harmony.	1

8.	Read the following extracts and answer ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	1x4=4
A		
I	Human dignity / human beings, regardless of appearance	1
II	It shows his deep insecurity and how he feels judged by his scar — that others see only his disfigurement, not him as a person.	1
III	b. Accept his appearance and value inner beauty	1
IV	Through this brief exchange, Mr. Lamb gently challenges Derry’s fixation on appearance and pushes him to see beyond outward looks — offering a lesson in self-acceptance and optimism.	1
	OR	
B.		
I	b. His inability to turn in an injured soldier.	1
II	duty/conscience	1
III	Although Sadao initially views the soldier as the enemy, the man’s vulnerable, wounded state evokes a moral conflict. His humanity overcomes his prejudice, compelling Sadao to question his own values and responsibilities.	1
IV	a. Statement 1 is true, but Statement 2 is false	1
9.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	1x6=6
A		
I	Eco’s reference shows that his academic writings and novels share the same ethical and philosophical foundation, revealing his unified vision as a thinker.	1
II	c. The essential role of emptiness in existence	1
III	b. His habit of using metaphors to express profound truth.	1
IV	False	1
V	Metaphor. In Umberto Eco’s context, it refers to the tiny, often overlooked moments in daily life—like waiting for an elevator or a short pause—that he uses productively to write, think, or work.	1
VI	People normally waste a lot of time consciously or unconsciously in doing unnecessary work/ misusing time/ gossiping/ procrastination/ unlike Eco who uses every moment productively and creatively.	1
	OR	
B		
I	To dramatically emphasise how unexpected and startling the realisation was, much like the instant nature of a thunderclap/ To effectively capture the emotional intensity of Franz’s moment of deep regret and abrupt awakening/ To highlight the suddenness and shock of Franz’s realisation about the value of his education/ To convey the urgency and profound impact of this single moment.	1
II	Intense	1

III	Complete the following suitably.preference for play over study	1
IV	It shows a fresh respect and appreciation, replacing earlier fears of discipline and strictness.	1
V	b. Why, I hardly knew how to write!	1
VI	a. realisation	1
10.	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40 - 50 words each: 1 -Content 1- Expression ½ -1 deducted from overall, for Accuracy	5x2=10
I	In Going Places, Sophie’s family disapproves of her in different ways. Her father mocks her ambitions, while her mother criticizes and remains unsupportive. Her sister ridicules her ideas, and her brother dismisses her opinions. Collectively, the family prioritizes reputation over her individuality, showing a lack of encouragement and understanding.	2
II	Keats celebrates beauty as a perennial source of joy that soothes human suffering and offers spiritual nourishment. Though life is fleeting and filled with gloom, beautiful things—whether in nature or art—create an eternal bond between the mortal and the divine.	2
III	Douglas’s fear of deep water was natural, but he chose to face it. Despite repeated near-drowning experiences, he decided to learn swimming, gradually mastering his fear. His courage was a conscious decision, proving Churchill’s idea: fear is a reaction, but courage is a deliberate choice leading to triumph.	2
IV	The ironmaster had mistaken the peddler for an old regimental comrade and invited him home. The peddler declined the invitation because he was carrying the money he had stolen from the crofter. He knew that if the ironmaster discovered his identity, he would hand him over to the police. Therefore, for him, going to the manor house was like walking into a lion’s den.	2
V	The poet uses imagery to highlight the difference between the “merry children” and her ageing mother. The children’s liveliness and laughter are set against her mother’s fading, pale appearance, creating a juxtaposition. The simile “like a late winter’s moon” evokes her mother’s frailty, emphasising the poet’s fear and emotional turmoil.	2
VI	The “squealing of brakes” signals that a car has stopped at the roadside. The vendors eagerly anticipate city folk buying their goods, hoping for a small profit. This sound symbolizes their expectations, dependence on customers, and desire for financial gain, highlighting the socio-economic contrast between villagers and city visitors.	2
11.	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40 50 words each. 1 -Content 1- Expression ½ -1 deducted from overall, for Accuracy	2x2=4
1.	The ticket clerk grew angry and scolded Charley, saying the currency he offered was not genuine. He warned Charley that if he was attempting to cheat him with fake notes, he would be caught and sent to prison.	2
II	You lose a sense of perspective and time in Antarctica due to the extreme environment, which includes a monochromatic and disorienting landscape, and the unusual light cycles of 24-hour daylight or darkness. The continent's lack of human markers like trees and buildings, combined with profound isolation, makes one's own concerns feel insignificant against the vastness of nature.	2
III	The astrologer demonstrated his confidence by firmly stating that even if the Maharaja killed ninety-nine tigers, the hundredth would surely kill him. He vowed to shave his tuft, burn his astrology books, and become an insurance agent if the prophecy failed.	2

12.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. Content 2 Expression 2 Accuracy 1	1x5=5
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated and Efficient: Subbu was extremely devoted to Gemini Studios, ensuring that tasks were completed on time. For example, he would meticulously organise shoots and coordinate with actors, making the studio run smoothly. • Multifaceted Genius: The writer admired Subbu for his versatility. He was not only a technician but also an actor and a writer, contributing creatively to scripts and performances. • Technical Expertise: Subbu had in-depth knowledge of filmmaking, including camera angles, lighting, and sound. This expertise helped improve the quality of Gemini Studios' productions. • Clever and Innovative: He often found smart solutions to production problems and introduced new ideas that gave Gemini Studios a fresh direction. • Friendly and Loyal: His cheerful, civil, and approachable nature made him popular among colleagues. He was always ready to help and guide others. • Charitable and Appreciated: Subbu's generosity and kindness added to his value. His contributions went beyond work, enhancing the studio's morale and culture 	
OR		
B	<p>“Lost Spring” by Anees Jung</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children like Saheb and other ragpickers are exploited due to poverty and societal neglect. • They are forced to work instead of attending school, showing how child labour deprives them of education and childhood. • The money – lenders, middlemen, policemen, law – keepers, officers and politicians altogether form a barrier around them and tie them in the grip of poverty. They cannot escape from it. • Bureaucrats, politicians, and factory owners prioritize profit over children's welfare, demonstrating dominance and exploitation, have imposed baggage on these underprivileged that they are unable to shed. <p>Indigo” by Louis Fischer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peasants in Champaran suffer under oppressive British planters who force them to grow indigo, extorted money illegally and deceitfully • They face economic exploitation, injustice, and intimidation due to their powerless social position. • Poverty, cultural and social backwardness in Champaran villages, education, health and hygiene neglected. • Gandhiji's intervention highlights the need to challenge systemic neglect and support the oppressed. 	
13.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. Content 2 Expression 2 Accuracy 1	1x5=5

A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bama witnesses the humiliation of her community due to caste prejudice and realises the depth of social injustice around her. • Instead of yielding to despair, she chooses education and self-awareness as tools to challenge inequality and uplift her people. • Zitkala-Sa, belonging to a Native American tribe, is forced to cut her hair in a missionary school — a powerful symbol of cultural subjugation. • Her emotional rebellion and inner resistance mark her refusal to let the oppressors erase her identity. • Both women respond to discrimination with courage and resolve, turning pain into empowerment. 	
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Third Level</i> by Jack Finney explores mental and physical escapism as a response to modern anxiety and dissatisfaction. • The protagonist, Charley, discovers a mysterious third level at Grand Central Station, which transports him to Galesburg, Illinois, in 1894 — a peaceful, simpler time. • His psychiatrist friend Sam insists it’s a waking dream, a result of Charley’s subconscious desire to flee the pressures of modern life. • Charley’s wife, Louisa, worries about his obsession but also longs for the serenity of the past, symbolising shared escapist desires in modern relationships. • For Charley, the third level represents hope — a literal and emotional escape from the stress and restlessness of 20th-century existence. • Ironically, Sam later finds the third level himself and chooses to stay in 1894, suggesting that true contentment might lie beyond the material world of modern times. 	