



COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION

ENGLISH-Code No. 301

Class-XII-(2025-26)

SET: 1



Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

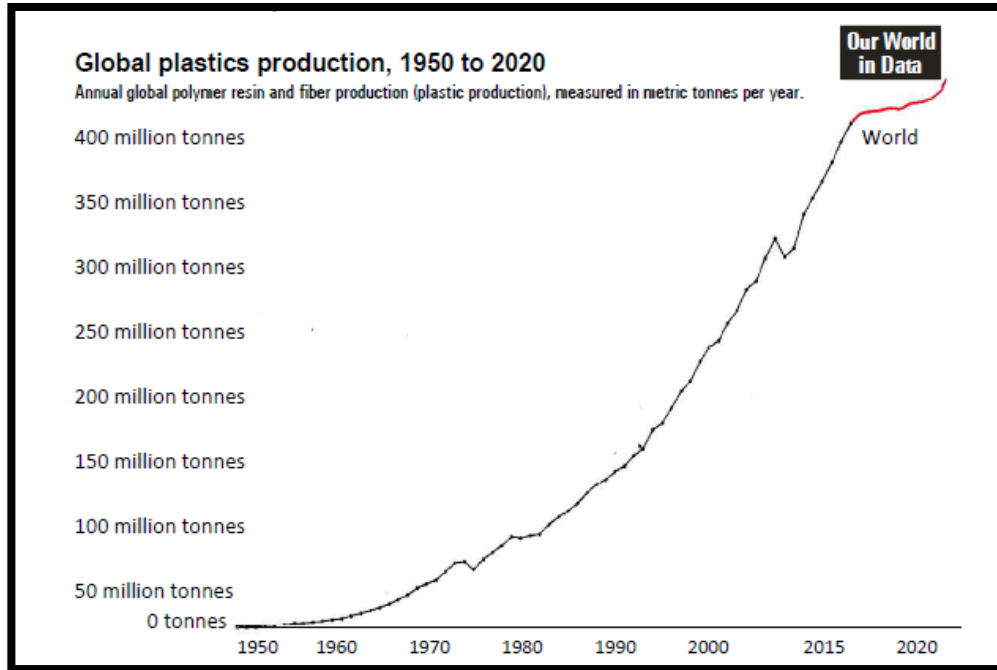
1. This question paper contains 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains 3 sections:
Section A: Reading Skills
Section B: Creative Writing Skills
Section C: Literature
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Q. No.	Questions	Marks
	SECTION - A READING SKILLS (22 Marks)	
1	Read the following passage.	12
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Academics have always been an essential part of human development. It prepares us to survive in the outside world and establish an identity of our own. But is an individual's development restricted to merely academics? In India, from an early age, we have been taught that education is limited to the boundaries of academics only; the idea of getting out into the field, for gaining practical experience, is always considered a hoax. This has hindered students' development. But the truth is that education represents a considerably broader field than we know of it. Our teaching, from the basics, has been focused on getting good grades and job offers, rather than being creative and unique.2. In the 21st century, the pure academic type of education is slowly paving the way for a whole new type. The paradigm shift in the whole education system is evident. People have now come to understand that education is a 360-degree activity that should focus on students' overall development, rather than restricting him/her to the classroom.3. Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom but reinforce or supplement the classroom curriculum, in some way, has become a point of focus today. These activities help in the growth of the child in more than one way. Participating in such activities helps youngsters grow mentally, socially and individually. Intellectual development of a student is developed in the classroom, but for the aesthetic development, such as team-building, character-building, and	

	<p>physical growth, students must step out into the outside world. For instance, if a student is a part of a school football team, he/ she will learn teamwork and coordination in a practical manner, which cannot be taught in class.</p> <p>4. Similarly, in colleges and institutions, there is a need for practical exposure so that the students can experience the actual working of an industry. For example, taking a student to a manufacturing firm will give him/ her the real insight and better learning of the industry. Catering to this change, most professional colleges, including schools, have started providing practical exposure to students through regular guest lectures, industrial visits, conferences, seminars, cultural festivals, and so on. With industry visits, students are able to better identify their prospective areas of work in the overall organisational function. Moreover, they help enhance interpersonal skills and communication techniques. In addition, guest lectures are equally important for all-around development of students. It is a great way for students to gain maximum exposure, as guest speakers talk about their real-life experiences and not what is in the textbooks.</p> <p>5. Through such events, students are made to participate and coordinate different events wherein they get to know how exactly things are managed. Classroom teaching provides the foundation, and co-curricular or extracurricular activities provide practical exposure and opportunities to implement what students learn in the classroom. This helps in developing the overall personality of the students, inculcating various soft skills in them, which otherwise are difficult to teach. Clearly, life beyond academics creates creative and empowered professionals.</p>	
	Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.	
I	Complete the following with a suitable reason. Classroom learning alone is not sufficient for a student's development because _____.	1
II	Based on the initial description of the education system in India, how can we say that students were in a state of discomfort? (Any one reason)	1
III	Complete the following with the most suitable option. Co-curricular activities help in _____. A. scoring good grades B. developing teamwork and coordination C. restricting creativity D. memorising classroom lessons	1
IV	Explain with an example how industrial visits enhance practical learning for students.	1
V	The writer highlights the importance of co-curricular activities in all of the following ways EXCEPT _____. A. they build teamwork and character B. they help in physical development C. they provide industry-level exposure D. they guarantee top marks in academics	1
VI	Complete the following with the most suitable option. Guest lectures are important because they _____. A. repeat what is already in textbooks B. narrate real-life experiences of experts C. replace the need for classroom teaching D. discourage students from learning skills	1

VII	What does the writer’s statement, “Classroom teaching provides the foundation, and co-curricular activities provide practical exposure”, suggest about the role of activities beyond academics? (Answer in about 40 words)	2
VIII	What does the example of a student playing in the school football team suggest about the value of co-curricular activities? (Answer in about 40 words)	2
IX	How does life beyond academics create empowered professionals? Illustrate with examples from the passage.	1
X	Complete the following with the most suitable option. The main idea of the text is _____. A. the importance of scoring high grades in academics B. the need for practical exposure and co-curricular activities for overall development C. the role of textbooks in shaping students’ knowledge D. the restrictions of classroom teaching without exams	1
2	Read the following passage carefully.	10
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our history makes it evident that the Indian Plastics Industry made a vigorous beginning in 1957, but it took more than 30 years for it to being seeded by the State-owned Indian Petrochemicals, and it was only in 1994 that plastic soft drink bottles became a visible source of annoyance. 2. In the same year, people in other cities were concerned about the state of public sanitation and also urged regulatory bodies to ban the production, distribution and use of plastic bags. However, the challenge was greater than it appeared at first. 3. The massive generation of plastic waste in India is due to rapid urbanisation, the spread of retail chains, plastic packaging from grocery to food and vegetable products, to consumer items and cosmetics. The projected high growth rates of GDP and continuing rapid urbanisation suggest that India’s trajectory of plastic consumption and plastic waste is likely to increase. 4. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report of 2018, India stands among a few other countries like France, Mongolia and several African countries that have initiated total or partial national-level bans on plastics in their jurisdictions. On World Environment Day in 2018, India vowed to phase out single-use plastics by 2022, which gave a much-needed impetus to bring this change. 5. In this context, thereafter, ten States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) are currently sending their collected waste to cement plants for co-processing. Twelve other States/UTs are using plastic waste for polymer bitumen road construction, and still four other States are using the plastic waste for waste-to-energy plants and oil production. A world of greater possibilities has now opened up to initiate appropriate and concrete actions to build up the necessary institutions and systems before oceans turn, irreversibly, into a thin soup of plastic. 6. However, there is no one single masterstroke to counter the challenges witnessed by the staggering plastic waste management in the country. The time is now to formulate robust and inclusive National Action Plans, and while doing so, the 	

country will establish greater transparency to combat the plastic jeopardy in a more sustainable and holistic way.



Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

I	What was the main reason for the rapid growth of plastic waste in India? A. lack of awareness about plastic usage B. rapid urbanisation and spread of retail chains C. delay in State-level initiatives D. ban on plastic bags	1
II	Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option. India’s first visible issue with plastic soft drink bottles became a concern in _____ (1957 / 1987 / 1994).	1
III	According to the passage, which of the following is a reason why managing plastic waste is challenging in India? A. limited production of plastics B. massive generation of plastic waste from multiple sources C. lack of government interest in industrial growth D. low GDP growth	1
IV	Which statement best reflects India’s international stance regarding plastic bans? A. India has banned all plastics completely. B. India is among the few countries initiating total or partial national-level bans. C. India has not taken any measures against plastic. D. India only focuses on recycling plastics.	1
V	According to the UNEP Report of 2018, what initiative did India take on World Environment Day?	2
VI	What does the term “plastic jeopardy” in Paragraph 6 imply? A. The economic benefits of plastics. B. The environmental threat posed by plastic pollution. C. The need for more plastic production.	1

	D. The popularity of plastic products.	
VII	How might robust National Action Plans help India combat plastic waste effectively?	2
VIII	Select the option that is NOT addressed in the passage: A. Reasons for plastic waste growth B. International comparisons on plastic bans C. Innovative methods to utilise plastic waste D. Health hazards caused by plastics E. Need for national-level action plans	1
	SECTION - B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)	
	<i>All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.</i>	
3	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words	1x4=4
A	You are Arjun Mehta, Secretary of the Youth Cultural Forum, Bengaluru. The Forum is organising a Weekend Theatre Workshop for students to enhance their communication skills and confidence through stage performance. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing students about the event and inviting them to register. Include all necessary details such as the venue, date, time, registration process, and contact information. Put the notice in a box.	4
	OR	
B	You are Rohit Sharma, the President of the Fitness Club of Sunrise International School, Jaipur. Your school is organising a “Wellness Week” to promote physical fitness and mental well-being among students. Draft a notice in about 50 words, inviting students to take part in activities such as yoga sessions, mindfulness workshops, and fitness challenges. Include all the necessary details. Put the notice in a box.	4
4	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words	1x4=4
A	You are Asha/Akash, the Literary Secretary of Zenith Public School, Delhi. Your school is hosting an Inter-School Literary Carnival to promote reading and creative writing among students. Draft an invitation in about 50 words, inviting Ms. Meera, a renowned author, to inaugurate the event and interact with the participants. Include all necessary details.	4
	OR	
B	You are Rohan Malhotra, a former student of Springdale High School, Delhi. You have been invited to be the chief guest at the school’s Annual Sports Meet. Write a formal reply in about 50 words, expressing your acceptance of the invitation and appreciation for the honour bestowed upon you.	4
5	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words	1x5=5
A	You are Ritika/Sharav, residing at 18, Rosewood Apartments, Pune. Write a letter to the Editor of The Indian Express highlighting the importance of mental health awareness among students. Emphasise the need for counselling facilities, stress management workshops, and supportive school environments to help students cope with academic and personal pressures. Use the points given below along with your own ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising stress and anxiety levels among students • Need for trained counsellors and mental health workshops 	5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging open communication and support systems in schools • Promoting healthy coping mechanisms and emotional well-being • Building a culture of awareness and acceptance around mental health 	
	OR	
B	<p>You are Anil/Anu Lamba, a recent graduate. You come across an advertisement for a part-time job that allows you to continue your higher education. You wish to apply for the position. Write a formal application to the Retail Sales Associate, AJ Retailers, Gulab Nagar, attaching your bio-data and expressing your interest and suitability for the advertised post.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">WANTED INTERNS NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED</p> <p>Part-Time Job: To facilitate and support the company’s mission of helping clients with the best of our services.</p> <p>Position: H.R. Recruitment Intern</p> <p>Key Requisites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Communication Skills • Troubleshooting Attitude • Sincere Worker <p>Qualification: Graduate</p> <p>Interested candidates can share their biodata at ajretailers@gmail.com</p> </div>	5
6	Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.	1x5=5
A	<p>You are Hitesh/Henna, a blog writer and a voracious reader who keeps abreast of current trends. Having recently read about the rapid growth of Digital Marketing, you decide to write an article on the topic: “Digital Marketing Has Gained Tremendous Momentum in the Past Couple of Years.” Using the hints given below, along with your own ideas, write an article for your blog. Invent necessary details wherever required.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing nature of marketing • Digital world – impact on marketing • Advantages of Digital marketing – reduces time, effort, etc. • Access and reach of marketing • Future of digital marketing </div>	5
	OR	
B	<p>You are Adi/Aditi, Staff Reporter for Daily Times. You attended and covered a group discussion by Class XII students on the topic: “Technology’s Effects on Society.” Write a report for the newspaper, highlighting the key points of the discussion and the overall outcome of the event. Use the outline cues given below, along with your own ideas, to structure your report effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date, time, and venue of the event • Participants and organiser(s) • Key points discussed – positive and negative effects of technology • Students’ viewpoints and examples cited • Conclusion or outcome of the discussion 	5

SECTION - C LITERATURE (40 Marks)		
7	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	1x6=6
A	<p>“Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing A flowery band to bind us to the earth, Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth Of noble natures, of the gloomy days, Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways” (A Thing of Beauty)</p>	
I	<p>Complete the following. The message in the above extract, as per Keats, is _____.</p> <p>(A) for all earthly nuances, a thing of beauty is the cure (B) beauty of the beloved lies in the eyes of the beholder (C) nature provides ample objects to make us sad (D) there is beauty in death</p>	1
II	<p>State whether the following statement is ‘True’ or ‘False’. ‘Sweet memories bind us to this earth.’</p>	1
III	<p>Complete the sentence appropriately. ‘Wreathing a flowery band _____.’</p>	1
IV	<p>Why has Keats used the phrase, ‘Spite of despondence’?</p>	1
V	<p>‘Gloomy days’ – Which figure of speech is used here?</p>	1
VI	<p>The poet attributes the trials and tribulations one encounters in the journey of life to _____.</p> <p>(A) unhealthy and o’er darkened ways (B) a flowery band (C) we wreathing (D) on every morrow</p>	1
OR		
B	<p>“... and realized with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young Trees sprinting ...” (My Mother at Sixty-Six)</p>	
I	<p>What does the use of the word ‘and’ at the beginning of the line, ‘and realised with pain...’ suggest?</p>	1
II	<p>Why was the poetess’s heart in pain?</p> <p>(A) She saw her enfeebled mother. (B) The poetess herself was unwell. (C) She did not want to go back to Cochin. (D) The jerks of the car caused the pain.</p>	1
III	<p>What does the line ‘but soon she put that thought away’ mean?</p>	1
IV	<p>Complete the following. She started ‘looking out’ because _____.</p> <p>(A) she wanted to distract herself</p>	1

	(B) she found interesting visuals (C) the colourful flowers caught her attention (D) she was feeling impatient	
V	Which poetic device is used in ‘Trees sprinting’?	1
VI	There is a contrast between the images within the car and outside. What does the image of ‘Young Trees’ signify?	1
8	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	4x1=4
A	<p>“Antarctica, because of its simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Take the microscopic phytoplankton - those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean’s food chain. These single-celled plants use the sun’s energy to assimilate carbon and synthesise organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of processes called photosynthesis. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of phytoplankton, which in turn will affect the lives of all marine animals.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Journey to the End of the Earth)</p>	
I	Complete the following sentence. Antarctica is a perfect place to study ecological evolution because _____.	1
II	Choose the correct option. Phytoplanktons can be defined as _____. (A) microscopic grasses of the sea. (B) plants at the bottom of the sea. (C) multi-celled plants. (D) small viruses in the ice-covered areas.	1
III	What, according to the scientists, will impact the activities of the phytoplankton?	1
IV	What is the reaction of human beings when they come to Antarctica?	1
	OR	
B	<p>“At midnight, when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to the car and shoved it into the seat. The dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest, the tiger launched its satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja’s presence and stood as if in humble supplication, “Master, what do you command of me?” It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The Tiger King)</p>	
I	Complete the sentence appropriately. The reason for the dewan and his aged wife to drag the tiger to the car was _____.	1
II	The author described the tiger’s action as ‘satyagraha’ because _____. (A) he was poor in health, old, and weak (B) he had become a man-eater, and only ate humans (C) he did not like the dewan and his wife’s ways of handling him (D) he refused to comply with what the dewan wanted	1

III	What is the role of the dewan?	1
IV	Explain the phrase ‘in humble supplication’.	1
9	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B).	1x6=6
A	While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up. I heard M. Hamel say to me, ‘I won’t scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough. See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, “Bah! I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.” And now you see where we’ve come out. Ah, that’s the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you, ‘How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?’ But you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.” (The Last Lesson)	
I	What was the mental state of Franz when his name was called out?	1
II	Choose the most appropriate option to complete the sentence. ‘My heart is beating and not daring to look up.’ The reason for this state of Franz was _____. (A) The news that it was the last French lesson shocked him. (B) He made a big mistake in coming late. (C) He had not learned participles. (D) He was guilty of standing in front of the billboard listening to his teacher.	1
III	What made M. Hamel say to Franz, “You must feel bad enough?”	1
IV	Give one word for, ‘Every day we have said to ourselves, ‘Bah! I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.’	1
V	What makes M. Hamel say – ‘You pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?’	1
VI	Choose the most appropriate option to complete the sentence. M. Hamel says, ‘We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with’ as _____. (A) he was reproachful because he made them do his personal work, and went fishing when he felt like (B) he was dissatisfied with their lack of interest in studies (C) he was unhappy with their lack of attendance (D) he was unhappy with their lackadaisical attitude	1
	OR	
B	“I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten-rupee note,” Saheb says, his eyes lighting up. When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don’t stop scrounging, for there is hope for finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children, it is wrapped in wonder; for the elders, it is a means of survival. One winter morning, I saw Saheb standing by the fenced gate of the neighbourhood club, watching two young men dressed in white, playing tennis. “I like the game,” he hums, content to watch it standing behind the fence. “I go inside when no one is around,” he admits. “The	

	gatekeeper lets me use the swing.” Saheb, too, is wearing tennis shoes that look strange over his discoloured shirt and shorts. “Someone gave them to me,” he says in the manner of an explanation. (Lost Spring)	
I	What reasons does Saheb give for children like him indulging in scrounging?	1
II	Choose the most appropriate option to complete the sentence. “When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don’t stop scrounging.” The expression ‘don’t stop scrounging’ in the context denotes _____. (A) hope (B) experimentation (C) impossibility (D) illusion	1
III	Explain the expression: ‘For the children it is wrapped in wonder.’	1
IV	Why does Saheb stand and watch the two men playing tennis?	1
V	Choose the most appropriate option to complete the sentence. The gatekeeper, in allowing Saheb to use the swing, shows _____. (A) empathy (B) greed (C) cynicism (D) indifference	1
VI	Complete the following. Saheb explained that someone had given the shoes to him because _____.	1
10	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each.	5x2=10
I	Gandhiji’s visit to Motihari marked a turning point in India’s freedom struggle. Analyse how his reception there reflected the awakening of the Indian peasants and the growing spirit of nationalism. (Indigo)	2
II	Douglas’s fear of water stemmed from his early experiences. Examine how his initial aversion to water developed and how this shaped his later attitude towards swimming and fear. (Deep Water)	2
III	The peddler’s refusal to accept the ironmaster’s invitation reveals much about his mindset and circumstances. Analyse the reasons behind his hesitation. (The Rattrap)	2
IV	How does the belief held by some primitive cultures about being photographed point towards the intrusive and exploitative nature of interviews? (The Interview)	2
V	What does the image “massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band” signify in conveying Aunt Jennifer’s inner struggles and lack of freedom? (Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)	2
VI	Why was Kothamangalam Subbu regarded as the No. 2 at Gemini Studios, and what does this reveal about his personality and position in the film industry? (Poets and Pancakes)	2
11	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 -50 words each.	2x2=4
I	What does Judewin’s remark, “We have to submit, because they are strong,” reveal about her character and her understanding of the power imbalance faced by Native American children? (Memories of Childhood – The Cutting of My Long Hair)	2
II	What does Derry’s question to Mr. Lamb about having friends reveal about his emotional struggles, and how does Mr. Lamb’s response reflect his positive outlook on life? (On the Face of It)	2

III	How does Dr. Sadao embody the belief that true doctors transcend barriers of nationality, religion, and creed through their humanitarian actions? (The Enemy)	2
12	Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words.	1X5=5
A	How do <i>Indigo</i> by Louis Fischer and <i>The Roadside Stand</i> by Robert Frost depict the struggles of ordinary people striving for justice and survival, and what similarities do they reveal about the challenges faced by marginalised communities in society?	5
	OR	
B	Compare and contrast the messages conveyed in <i>A Thing of Beauty</i> by John Keats and <i>Keeping Quiet</i> by Pablo Neruda. How do both poems encourage readers to reflect on the importance of appreciating life, finding inner peace, and connecting with the world around them? Support your answer with examples from both poems.	5
13	Answer any one of the following two questions in about 120-150 words.	1x5=5
A	How does Jack Finney use Charley's discovery of the third level to explore themes of escapism and the desire for a simpler life? Analyse Charley's thoughts, feelings, and actions, and explain how they reflect human longing for comfort and security in a fast-paced world.	5
	OR	
B	Analyse the character of the Tiger King in terms of his arrogance, cruelty, and obsession with power. How do his actions and decisions reflect the dangers of absolute authority, and what lessons does the story convey about leadership and moral responsibility? Support your answer with examples from the chapter ' <i>Tiger King</i> '.	5