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Candidates must write the Set No. on the title page of the answer book.

**DAV PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ODISHA ZONE
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2023-24**

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.
- Set number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer book by the candidate.
- Check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Write down the Serial Number of the question in the left side of the margin before attempting it.
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. The students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer script during this period.

CLASS- XII**SUB: ENGLISH CORE (301)****Time: 3 Hours****Maximum Marks: 80****General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages****1. Read the following text.****12 m**

1. The Titanic, in its watery grave, is a great museum of human history and is at risk of being lost forever because of curious voyagers and treasure hunters, fears Bob Ballard, who first discovered the remains of the iconic ship in 1985. Famous for discovering the great ship, Ballard is a former US Navy Officer and a professor of Oceanography.
2. " The Titanic is a museum of human history without door and guard. I am deeply concerned about not only the Titanic but all the ancient history that is now at risk. If we cannot save this iconic ship, then there is very little hope we can save ancient ships. The world should realize that you don't have to go down and take everything and you do not have to do a treasure hunt. This is a common heritage of all of us and if we really want to take steps to preserve human history in the ocean, we need to start with the Titanic," Ballard said in a telephonic interview from London.

3. Ballard, as part of a tie-up, is presenting a documentary called "Save the Titanic" on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship- April 15, 1912. The ship and her fate continue to fascinate, largely because of the horror that took place that night, with 1,522 passengers and crew losing their lives.
4. Ballard says that despite being on the ocean floor for 100 years, the ship is full of human footprints. "You will find pairs of shoes everywhere. The sea and the life below has claimed everything but they do not know what to do with shoes, so you will find a pair of mother's shoes next to her little daughter and that's their gravestone. At her wreckage, we almost felt that we were surrounded by the lifeboats of all the people that were in the water at that spot".
5. Ballard says that the fate of the Titanic continues to fascinate so many years after it sank because it is "irony personified in history". "The story has all the ingredients to make it timelessly fascinating. You have this revolutionary ship that's unsinkable, and carrying people from different sections of the society. And then, it goes and hits an iceberg and sinks on its maiden journey. It's an irony personified in history".
6. Talking about his discovery, which came after great research and 75 years later, Ballard, says it was a sombre moment when they first spotted the boiler to the Titanic. "In the 90s, advanced technology gave us double diving capabilities in the Atlantic Ocean. I knew that the Titanic was sitting at almost 12,000 feet. What led me to her discovery was a simple technique that I followed. We decided to look for the debris trail instead of the ship".
7. Ballard says the ship, if preserved well and not subjected to constant submarine journeys, will last for a long time on the Atlantic floor. "The deep sea, because of its darkness, its cold temperatures and its great pressure, creates a high state of preservation. With a little caution, we can protect the Titanic for future generations to visit."
8. Ballard has also connected to the people of Belfast, who refused to talk about the tragedy. "The ship's construction took place at Belfast. After the tragedy, families of the workers refused to talk about it because of the shame and sadness in the loss of life involved".

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

- i. Select the option that the Titanic, a great museum of human history is at risk of being lost forever because of _____. 1

A. adventure and excitement	B. curious voyagers and treasure hunters
C. shame and sadness	D. loss and change
- ii. What is the significance of the Titanic that continues to attract attention? 1
 - A. It is irony personified in history.
 - B. Its advanced technology gave double diving technologies.
 - C. It is a treasure hunt.
 - D. It is a common need.
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing style is deeply concerned about all the ancient history that is now at risk. 2
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description.

Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that if preserved well and not subjected to constant submarine journeys then..... 1

- v. Select the option that is similar in meaning to the expression, ‘**very solemn or serious**’.
- 1
- A. Maiden B. Submarine C. Sombre D. Revolutionary
- vi. Explain, in about 40 words, why the Titanic is considered as “irony personified”. 2
- vii. In the line, “...the ship is full of human footprints”, what does the phrase ‘human footprints’ refer to? 1
- viii. How did the families of the workers who were engaged in the ship’s construction react when contacted by Ballard? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- ix. Read the five headlines (a) -(e), given below: 1
- (a) 75 years later, they first spotted the boiler to the Titanic.
- (b) Titanic is a museum of human history.
- (c) Ballard, presented a documentary called "Save the Titanic".
- (d) Atlantic floor creates a high state of preservation.
- (e) Titanic-an iconic ship discovered in 1985.

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with occurrences in the passage.

- A. Only (a) B. (b) (c) and (d) C. Only (e) D. (a) and (e)

2. Read the following text.

10 m

1. Travel today, whether for purposes of business or leisure, takes up 25 – 30% of the annual budget of a family, according to a survey conducted in 2021.
2. Today, it is trending to spend money on experiences rather than consumables. Travel is no longer looked at as just visiting a new place. It underlines an ethos, a culture, a Pandora’s box full of surprises. People who love to travel enjoy relaxation, new cultures, foreign food or incredible landscapes different from their normal surrounding. Some people enjoy the motion of travelling, being on a boat, plane, train or bus. The list is endless and the reasons range from simple to complex. The study further revealed changing trends in travel and tourism. While some are serious travellers who fall under the category of medical tourism, a large percentage are splurging on pleasure travel. When questioned on why, what are the benefits or purpose, the responses can be categorized under a few common headings.
3. Those who do it for fun, for a sense of adventure, to take on risks and challenges are the 18 – 30 year-olds. While the 30 – 40 years bracket couple fun with education, thirst for knowledge and experience – to see beautiful places, explore cultures and cuisines. They believe that an ever-changing environment is stimulating, refreshing and brings endless learning opportunities. Those between the 40 – 50 years travelled to expand their minds and challenge perspectives. They want a break from their soul-destroying lifestyles. The 60 years and above were the Now Travellers – they feel they might drop dead the day before they retire or be too old and unfit to travel, or take on, physical challenges. The in-between 50 – 60 years adopt the best of both worlds.
4. The survey concluded that travel has become an integral part of people’s lives, and it provides us the greatest stories, our most cherished moments and countless learnings that broaden our horizons and above all teach us about ourselves and others.

Age-wise distribution of holiday –goers in percentages				
Age	Adventure	Education	Relaxation	Now Travellers
Below 20	39	38	6	17
20-30	44	28	12	16
30-50	25	24	30	21
Above 50	8	10	40	42

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

- i. Do you think the researchers of the survey aimed to popularise a particular type of tourism? Support your answer in about 40 words with reference to the text. 2

- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for people to make travel budgets.
 - A. In order to gain relief from work pressure. 1
 - B. Learn about new people and their language.
 - C. Buy the latest designs in the market.
 - D. Undertake journeys that give relaxation, adventure, or knowledge.
- iii. The reason why people travel led to individual responses. List one way in which 18 – 30 year-olds satisfy their yearning for adventure. 1

- iv. Based on the information from the table given in the passage, select the option that displays the most popular reason for travelling for the 30 – 50 year-olds. 1
 - A. Now Travellers B. Relaxation C. Adventure D. Education
- v. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option 1
 The 2021 survey aims to identify_____
 - A. the most popular tourist travel destination.
 - B. the age group that travels the most.
 - C. the different reasons why people travel.
 - D. the challenges of the travel and tourism industry.
- vi. Based on the reading of the text, state a point in about 40 words to challenge the given statement. 2
People feel they can travel whenever they want, at any time in their lives.
- vii. Complete the sentence based on the following statement: 1
Travel today, underlines an ethos, a culture, a Pandora’s box full of surprises. We can say this because _____.

- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1

25- 30% of people have adopted a long term travel lifestyle and have accordingly prioritised their budgets.

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

3. **Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words.** 4
- A. The celebration of the Joy of Giving week promotes generosity, selflessness, sacrifice, love, kindness, finding joy in altruistic acts of giving. During this week your school, Amar Vidyalaya, Agra is organizing a visit to the orphanage of your city to donate some warm clothes to the inmates of the orphanage. Draft a notice to be displayed on your school notice board. You are Rahul/ Rashmi, Head Boy/ Head Girl of the school. Invent necessary details.
- OR**
- B. You are Anil/Aneela of class XII, Goenka Public School, Noida. Being the School Leader, draft a notice addressing all the Members of the School Cabinet to discuss and plan the activities for 02 October, Gandhi Jayanti Celebration. Ask them to come prepared with suggestions for patriotic-based activities and planning for an Exhibition on the Life of Gandhiji.
4. **Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words.** 4
- A. You are the Student Head, Cultural Affairs, at M.K. Sr. Sec. School. Your school is organising a 2- day Health Check-up camp over the weekend for the parents of the school students. Create an invitation, inviting the school parents for this Health Check-up camp. Share information about the camp organisers including other necessary details.
- OR**
- B. You are Amrutha Sudhan, a famous Indian Entrepreneur. You have received an invitation from the Director, the Divinity Foundation, Telangana, to be a speaker at an international conference titled 'Responsible Leadership and Community Empowerment' that will be conducted on 05 August, 2023 at 3 p.m. in Hampshire Plaza, Hyderabad. Respond to accept the invitation.
5. **Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.** 5
- A. You are Rajan/Rajni, resident of B-591, Gomti Vihar, New Delhi. While going through the newspaper, you came across the following advertisement announcing vacancies for TV anchors and newsreaders. Considering the suitability of your candidature, write a letter to the Advertiser, Box No-345, Jan Shakti, New Delhi, enclosing your RESUME and inventing all necessary details.

AN EXCITING, CHALLENGING, FUN OPPORTUNITY
Wanted anchors-cum-news reporters
A leading national television network requires newscasters

Key responsibilities:

- Anchor news stories
- Assist in writing stories
- Research news
- Cover news events


Requisites:

- Good command over language
- Strong oral and written skills
- Knowledge of computers

Requirements:

- Participation in debates, dramatics, etc.

Apply to:
The Advertiser, Box No. 345, Jan Shakti, New Delhi



OR

B. You are Ashish/Astha, a resident of House Number - 254, Vigyan Vihar, Amla, Madhya Pradesh. You are worried to see your younger brother's frequent habit of using the Internet as a homework tool. Taking ideas from the input given below and your own, write a letter to the Editor of a popular newspaper, expressing your opinion on disadvantages of the dependency of youth on internet and suggesting ways to minimize student Internet dependency.

- Today's Techno world—24 hr access to Internet—school children using Net as homework tool.
- Drawbacks –students' reading, writing and thinking skills seem to be disappearing—just copy information—some websites may contain inaccurate information- no interest in listening to teacher in school—concept of hard work disappearing.
- Suggestions to minimize student Internet dependency
- Awareness, parental guidance and instructions from school to use Internet ethically.

6. **Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.**

5

A. You are Manish from Class XII. Write an article for the school magazine, shedding light on the G20's significance in global economic cooperation and stability. Highlight how the G20 affects the prospects of young adults and the importance of their understanding and engagement in global affairs. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

- The G20's role in Global Affairs
- Key objectives and achievements
- Realizing inclusivity and unity
- Impact on young adults
- Success stories
- Shaping a brighter future

OR

B. There are instances of people disfiguring our tourist places and spoiling their beauty.

Recently you attended a Tourism conclave at Puri. As a journalist, write a report for the Times of India on how to improve tourism in your state.

- which volunteer programme? -purpose of the conclave- it's importance
- activities that took place – who attended?
- any key messages delivered?
- any resources and information provided to attendees?
- any insight into follow-up activities planned?
- what impact is expected to be achieved?

**SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY
READING TEXT (40 marks)**

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

: 6

A. A thing of beauty is a joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness: but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of Sweet dreams, and health and quiet breathing. (*A Thing of Beauty*)

- i. Which of the following is having the same poetic device as used in “A bower quiet for us”?
- A. Save money by spending it. 1
B. Her eyes were diamonds when she entered.
C. A horse is a stable animal.
D. Mira was as busy as a bee in her work.
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.
Beauty of the nature provides us infinite pleasure, but it may cease if we stop deriving the pleasure of natural beauty. 1
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.
“Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness” is the fact that nobody can deny because _____ 1
- iv. The use of the word "bower quiet" in the extract suggests that the shade was a gift of nature and it provides quiet sleep. This description speaks about _____. 1
- v. Based on the rhyme scheme of the poem, evident in lines 1-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? 1

Soothing

Father

Umpire

- vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the perennial beauty that is highlighted in the above said extract. 1
- A. Beauty only goes on increasing, it never dies.
B. Beauty is a perennial source of pleasure.
C. All the components of nature are short lived, may be tangible or intangible.
D. Beauty only comes from within and discourages people to look at it.

OR

- B. Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across the screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,
They do not fear the men beneath the tree:
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty. (*Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers*)
- i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the second line of the extract. 1
- 1) heart of stone 2) trees sprouting 3) silver spoon
4) white murder 5) light of life 6) bright sun

Choose the most appropriate option

A. only 1. B. 3 & 6. C. 1 & 5. D. 2 & 4

- ii. Complete the statement. 1
Tigers do not fear the men beneath the tree, because _____.
- iii. Tigers in the extract are symbolic of _____ 1
A. inhumanity and courage. B. confidence and elegance.
C. cruelty and fear. D. aggression and assertiveness
- iv. Mention the significance of the word “denizens” as used in the context of the poem. 1
- v. Identify the action word from the extract that signifies that the tigers are happy with a carefree attitude. 1
- vi. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.
The tone in the beginning of the poem is pessimistic and full of despair which changes to optimistic at the end. 1

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4

A. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example that's a 'temporary refuge from reality'. Well may, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality. (*The Third Level*)

- i. Stamp collection was a temporary refuge from reality for Charley. Comment. 1
- ii. Charley is unhappy as told by Sam. 1
This is so, because _____.
A. Charley has gone through the Third Level
B. Charley feels highly stressed and therefore wants to escape.
C. Louisa made Charley unhappy
D. Sam was also unhappy
- iii. 'Well who doesn't'? here Charley wanted to highlight a universal concept that _____. 1
- iv. Give one reason why Charley talks about his grandfather while discussing about stamp collection. 1

OR

B. "I wondered, Your Excellency," Sadao murmured.

"It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "But you understand it was not lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty." He looked anxiously at his doctor. "If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn't you?"

"Certainly, Your Excellency," Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. "I can swear to your loyalty, Excellency," he said to the old General, "and to your zeal against the enemy". (*The Enemy*)

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 Dr. Sadao feels that the General was in the palm of his hand because_____.
- ii. Based on the given extract, the General can be described as_____. 1
- iii. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1
 At the end of the conversation with the General, Dr. Sadao felt _____.
- iv. Pick the option that best matches the idioms with ‘hand’ with their meanings. 1

Idioms	Meanings
1.Hand in glove	A.In the care of somebody good and knowledgeable
2.In good hands	B.To reveal a secret about one’s plans
3. Tip one’s hand	C. Do harm to someone who has been kind to you
4. Bite the hand that feeds you	D. Two or more people who are in collusion

- A. 1-A; 2-D; 3-C; 4-B
 B. 1-B; 2-C; 3-D; 4-A

- C. 1-D; 2-A; 3-B; 4-C
 D. 1-C; 2-A; 3-D; 4-B

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 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.(*The Last Lesson*)

- i. Describe the feeling of Franz when his name was called to recite. 1
- ii. Mr. Hamel can’t scold Franz on that day because_____ 1
 A. it was the last French lesson.
 B. everyone seemed serious that day.
 C. the surrounding lamented on the last day of Hamel.
 D. All of these.
- iii Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 The expression ‘Bah! I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow’, suggests that _____.
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract where Franz blames the people of Alsace for neglecting their own Mother Tongue. 1
- v. It is not desirable to blame the people of Alsace & Lorraine only for neglecting their own Mother Tongue. What do you comment on this statement? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? 1
 A. The consequence of procrastination
 B. The Teaching of M. Hamel
 C. People of France and their Future
 D. The Anxiety of the Students in the Class

OR

B. My acquaintance with the barefoot rag pickers leads me to Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it, metaphorically. Those who live here are squatters who came from Bangladesh back in 1971. Saheb's family is among them. Seemapuri was then a wilderness, it still is, but it is no longer empty. In structures of mud, with roofs of tin and tarpaulin, devoid of sewage, drainage or running water, live 10,000 rag pickers. They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than an identity. "If at the end of the day, we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain", say a group of women in tattered saris when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. (*Lost Spring*)

- i. What is the writer's opinion about the irony in the life of rag pickers? 1
- ii. It can be well said that the life of rag pickers is _____. 1
 - A. dragged into a world of mirage.
 - B. pushed into endless poverty.
 - C. filled with endless dreams.
 - D. filled with ecstasy.
- iii. Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "if at the end of the day, we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain". 1
- iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the rag pickers are squatters at Seemapuri devoid of the benefits. 1
- v. The line, "Those who live here are squatters who came from Bangladesh back in 1971" can be best classified as: 1
 - A. An opinion
 - B. A theme
 - C. A plot point
 - D. A fact
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately 1
'Seemapuri was metaphorically far away from New Delhi', means _____.

10. **Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. (5x2=10)**

- i. The gathering of the poets at Gemini Studio had a special purpose. Discuss.
(*Poets and Pancakes*)
- ii. The metaphor of 'The Rattrap' originates out of the peddler's sense of despair and frustration. Validate.
(*The Rattrap*)
- iii. Gandhiji's politics as mentioned in the chapter 'Indigo' was different from present day politics. Analyse.
(*Indigo*)
- iv. Describe the sense of panic as conveyed in the story "Deep Water". (*Deep Water*)
- v. What changes do you notice in Saheb after he was employed at the tea stall?
(*Lost Spring*)
- vi. Comment on the tone of the poem '*My Mother at Sixty-Six*'

11. **Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x2=4)**

- i. Which is more difficult to bear – physical impairment or the social alienation that it causes? Comment with reference to the play "*On the Face of It*".
- ii. The story of 'The Tiger King' reveals how the recklessness of man has led to the extinction of certain species of animals today. Elaborate in your own words.
(*The Tiger King*)

iii Between the heart and mind, Dr. Sadao successfully followed the voice of his heart over his mind. In this context, would you blame him as a traitor as he decided to treat an enemy soldier? Explain with reasons. *(The Enemy)*

12. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following in about 120- 150 words.** **5**

A. Franz from 'The Last Lesson' and the peddler from 'The Rattrap' demonstrate the importance of learning from our mistakes to evolve into better people. Imagine that Shubhangi, your friend, feels as if she has made a mistake by not taking her academics seriously. Write a letter to Shubhangi discussing instances from the two texts to give her an insight into the human tendency to make mistakes and learn from them. *(The Last Lesson & The Rattrap)*

You may begin like this:

Dear Shubhangi

I realise what you must be going through. But let me tell you that all of us have made mistakes at one point or another in our lives. After all, to err is human.....

OR

B. Enumerating on the Sustainable Development Goals, No. 16-Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, you decide to pen your views, reflecting on the values of Live and Let Live. Write your views in an article for your school magazine with reference to the poem, 'Keeping Quiet' and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

LIVE & LET LIVE

By Line- XYZ

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as Global Goals were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SDG no-16 provides.....

13. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following in about 120- 150 words.** **5**

A. Imagine that a few days after Mr. Lamb's fall from the ladder, Derry writes his thoughts in a page of his diary on how his meeting with Mr Lamb changed his perspective towards life. Think yourself as Derry and express these thoughts.

(On the Face of It)

You may begin like this:

Friday

29 September 2023

10.30 PM

A few days ago, I met an extraordinary person.....

OR

B. Imagine that you are Tishani Doshi. The pristine world of Antarctica leaves you awestruck. Back home you note your experiences about Antarctica and how the globe needs to work towards a sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure to save the future. You have been invited by a city school to share your experience. Draft a speech to be delivered to the senior students of the school in a seminar. You may begin like this.... *(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

My dear young friends

I had a wonderful experience.....

Thank you