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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
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- 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
- 75 years later, they first spotted the boiler to the Titanic.
 - Titanic is a museum of human history.
 - Ballard, presented a documentary called "Save the Titanic".
 - Atlantic floor creates a high state of preservation.
 - 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. 1
 - A. In order to gain relief from work pressure.
 - 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. You are Minto Mathews, the President of the School Gardening Club. The club is organizing a drive for promoting gardening as a hobby and as environment conservation campaign. Draft a notice for the school notice board, informing the students of all classes to actively participate in the drive to make it a success. Also mention the proposed distribution of free saplings to the participants on the occasion followed by a talk on 'Useful Gardening Tips'.

OR

B. You are Anusha Raj, the President of the Social Science club in your school. Your club is organising a visit to a local handloom centre. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, encouraging students of classes X-XII, to participate in the event and buy handloom goods. Mention how the visit can boost the morale of the local weavers.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words. 4

A. Your school has set-up a Literacy Programme in the school premises for the underprivileged children of a slum in your neighbourhood. As a part of the programme, you are celebrating 'Literacy Day' for these children. Draft an invitation to Ms. Manika Chauhan, the Manager of your school, requesting her to grace the occasion.

OR

B. You are Subhashree / Hardik Sen, a celebrated dramatist. You have been invited by the Literary Club, Brahma International School, Puri to deliver a lecture on 'Literature and Society'. Draft a formal reply declining the invitation.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

A. You are Chetan Sharma, a commerce graduate from Delhi University. You are seeking for a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in 'The Times of India', inviting young and dynamic fresh graduates as sales executives in a reputed company. Apply for the said job to Box No. 8365, C/o The Times of India, New Delhi.

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OR

- B. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a group of developmental disabilities that can affect a person's ability to communicate and interact socially. It is reported that every 1 in 100 children below 10 years has autism in India. You are Thara George, a speech therapist experienced in treating children with special needs. From your experience, you feel that Indian parents in general tend to keep such children away from the normal social structure and are hesitant to get the needed professional help. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily helping the parents to understand strengths of autistic children and encouraging them to help the children to reach their full potential by seeking speech therapy. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

Strengths of Autistic Children	Advantages of Speech therapy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detail-oriented• Passionate about interests• Straightforward and non-judgemental• Able to retain and recall information• Able to reason and think logically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articulate words better• Enjoy social interaction• Improve verbal and non-verbal communication• Understand non-verbal communication and social cues

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

5

- A. Make in India is an initiative by Government of India. It needs to create employment for the youth of India and help bring best practices to Indian business. Write an article for a business magazine on its impact to create employment for the youth of India. You can use the following clues.

Clues-

- To give more incentive to business
- Create employment opportunities
- Results already visible
- To lure businessmen
- Attract capital and technological investment
- Suggestions for improvements

OR

- B. You are Vinamra Hari, the Science Secretary of Goenka Public School. Your school has taken the Senior Secondary Students to the planetarium to witness the Historic Landing of Chandrayaan -3 in the South Pole of Moon. Write a Report for your school magazine on the series of events leading to landing using the given cues.
- which programme? -purpose of the visit- it's importance
 - activities that took place – who attended?
 - any key messages delivered?
 - any resources and information provided to attendees?
 - what learning objectives were 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*)

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. Having looked at her mother, why does Kamala Das look at the young children?
(*My Mother at Sixty-Six*)

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

- i. 'On the Face of It' talks about the importance of empathy to overcome prejudice and stereotypes. Explain.
(*On the Face of It*)

- ii. 'Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing', Elucidate, in the light of the chapter 'The Tiger King'. **(The Tiger King)**
- iii. Dr. Sadao undergoes a conflict of duties in 'The Enemy'. Justify the statement. **(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