

NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI, LUCKNOW REGION

ENGLISH CORE (CODE NO.301)

CLASS – XII

General instructions:

1. 15 minutes prior reading time is allotted for question paper reading.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections.
Section A READING-22 Marks
Section B WRITING -18 marks
Section C LITERATURE -40 marks
3. This question paper contains 13 questions
4. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part .write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

(Reading comprehension through unseen passage)

12

1.	<p>In recent decades, urban gardening has emerged as a powerful response to pressing urban challenges—food security, climate resilience, and mental health. Defined as the cultivation of edibles and greenery within city environments, urban gardening flourishes in diverse settings: balconies, rooftops, vacant plots, schoolyards, and vertical structures.</p> <p>One of the most celebrated benefits is food security. Urban gardens help bridge fresh produce gaps, especially in food-desert neighborhoods with limited access to nutritious options.</p> <p>A 2021 study revealed that community gardeners consumed fruits and vegetables nearly 1.5 times more daily than non-gardeners. These gardens empower residents to grow their own, reducing reliance on distant supply chains and promoting self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Beyond nutrition, urban gardens offer environmental and ecological advantages. For instance, plants in gardens improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and mitigating the urban heat-island effect, where concrete-dense cities trap heat. Additionally, such spaces enhance biodiversity by serving as habitats for insects and birds, even supporting pollinators in the smallest urban pockets.</p> <p>Mental health and social well-being also receive a boost. Gardening—whether solo or in communal plots—reduces stress, anxiety, and loneliness by offering therapeutic contact with nature and community interaction. This has been especially true during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, when many turned to gardening to cope with isolation.</p>	
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	a) Increasing import costs c) Reducing access to fresh food	b) Promoting distance farming d) Enabling local produce cultivation	1
vii	Suggest two environmental benefits of urban gardening.		2
viii	Name two health or social benefits of engaging in urban gardening.		2
ix	From the passage, find a word meaning 'self-sufficiency'.		1
X	. Find a word meaning 'reduce' from the passage.		1

2. Answer the following questions, based on given passage

Average Daily Screen Time Among Teenagers

Over the past decade, teenagers' screen usage patterns have shifted considerably.

The rise of smartphones, faster internet access, and an increase in online platforms have driven a marked increase in daily screen time. Below is a table summarizing how teenagers aged 13–19 spent their time across various screen activities:

Year	Social Media	Online Gaming	Educational Use	Others
2018	2.5 hours	1.5 hours	1.0 hour	0.5 hours
2019	3.0 hours	1.8 hours	1.1 hours	0.6 hours
2020	4.2 hours	2.5 hours	1.8 hours	0.8 hours
2021	4.5 hours	2.7 hours	2.0 hours	0.9 hours
2022	4.0 hours	2.4 hours	1.9 hours	0.7 hours

From the data, social media consistently consumed the most screen time, peaking at 4.5 hours/day in 2021. Similarly, online gaming saw a steep incline from 1.5 hours in 2018 to 2.7 hours in 2021, likely driven by increased engagement during lockdowns. A notable trend is the rise in educational screen usage, which jumped from 1.1 hours in 2019 to 2.0 hours in 2021, reflecting the shift to online learning during the pandemic. Although 2022 data shows a slight reduction in all categories—except for still-elevated educational use—screen time remains significantly above pre-pandemic levels, suggesting lingering behavioural changes. Experts caution about prolonged screen exposure: potential repercussions include eye strain,

headaches, sedentary habits, anxiety, poor sleep, and reduced concentration. To manage these challenges, health professionals recommend balancing digital time with physical activity, offline hobbies, and face-to-face social interaction.

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18)

3	Attempt any one of two in about 50 words.	4
A	You are cultural secretary of your school. Write a notice informing students about the auditions for the annual cultural fest. You are Rahul / Rani. OR	
B	Write a notice for the school notice board about a lost bag pack found in the school playground. Describe the items and instruct the owner on how to claim it. You are Rohan a class 12 th student of your school.	
4	Attempt any one of two, in about 50 words.	4
A	You are Anjali Sharma of Mohan- street sec 17-C Chandigarh. you have recently moved into a new house. Draft a formal invitation inviting guest to a housewarming ceremony. Include details such as the date, time, venue and purpose etc. OR	
B	You are Dr. Rohan Sharma. you have received an invitation from the director Health services Himachal Pradesh, who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on “Child Care” on 15 th October 2025 at 10 am in Civil Hospital Shimla. Draft a formal reply accepting this invitation.	
5	Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.	5
A	You are Dinesh Sharma, a resident of Dehradun. you are concerned about the inadequate and poorly maintained public transport in your city. Write a letter to the editor of ‘The Hindu’ highlighting the problem and suggesting ways to improve the situation. Some Cues are: . Overcrowded buses/ Trains . Irregular timings . Poor Maintenance . Increased traffic congestion . Need for reliable, affordable transport.	

B	<p>You are Sanjay Verma, a class 12 graduate from Lucknow. You have a strong command of English and enjoy teaching. You came across an advertisement in 'The Hindustan Times' for the post of part time tutor. Write a letter to the Director of Learn and Grow Coaching center applying for the post of Part time English tutor, along with your Bio data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advertisement</p> <p>Wanted: A part- time tutor for a coaching Centre in Lucknow to teach English to class 8th-10th students.</p> <p>Eligibility: Class 12 pass or above, fluent in English Contact: The Director, 'Learn and Grow Coaching Centre , Rajendra Nagar, Lucknow</p>	
6	Attempt Any One of two, in about 120- 150 words.	5
A	<p>You are Shruti/Rahul, a student of Class 12. You are concerned about the increasing digital addiction among today's youth. Write an article in 150–200 words on the topic "Teenagers and Digital Addiction: A Growing Concern" for your school magazine.</p> <p>Use the extended cues provided below.</p> <p>Cues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread use of smart phones, social media, and online games • Excessive screen time affecting studies, sleep, and health • Disconnection from real life — family, friends, nature • Impact on mental health: anxiety, low attention span, mood swings • Signs of addiction: irritability, compulsive checking, reduced productivity • Need for digital balance — screen time management • Role of parents and schools in monitoring usage • Encouraging hobbies, outdoor play, and face-to-face interaction • Technology is helpful — but only when used wisely <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>B You are Aditi/ Pranav, the Head Girl/Head Boy of Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Pune. Your school hosted a three-day Science and Innovation Fair in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and local NGOs. Write a report in 150–200 words for the school magazine describing the event and its significance.</p>	

	<p>Use the following detailed cues to develop your report</p> <p>CUES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of event, date, venue • Objective: to promote scientific thinking, creativity, and innovation among school students • Organized in collaboration with Ministry of Education and NGOs like Inspire India and Young Innovators • Participants: over 25 schools from Pune and nearby areas • Inauguration by Dr. Meenakshi Rao, a renowned scientist • Events: science exhibitions, model-making contests, innovation pitches, interactive workshops • Themes: sustainable development, low-cost technology, AI in education, space exploration • Special sessions by IIT professors and ISRO engineers • Audience included students, teachers, parents, media representatives • Valedictory ceremony – prizes and certificates distributed • Feedback: enthusiastic response, media coverage, inspiration for future scientists • Overall impact and conclusion 	
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SECTION C
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40)

7	Read the given extract and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.	
A	<p>Driving from my parent's home to Cochin, last Friday morning. I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realized with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away.....`</p>	
i	<p>Choose the option that best applies to the given extract.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A conversation 2) An argument 3) A piece of advice 4) A strategy 5) A recollection 6) A suggestion 	1

	<p>a) 1,3,6 c) Only 5</p>	<p>b) 2,4,5 d) Only 1</p>	
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ii	<p>Choose the Book Title that perfectly describes the condition of the given extract.</p> <p>a) Title 1 b) Title 2 c) Title 3 d) Title 4</p>			1
	TITLE 1	TITLE 2	TITLE 3	TITLE 4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You are only old once! ➤ by Dr. Seuss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Gift of years <p>By Joan Chittister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Somewhere Towards the end ➤ By Diana Athill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Gift of years ➤ By Philippa perry

iii	<p>Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below.</p> <p>Assertion: The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly</p> <p>Reason: The poet didn't want to confront the inevitability of fate that was to dawn upon her mother.</p> <p>a) Assertion can be inferred but the reason cannot be inferred b) Assertion cannot be inferred but the reason can be inferred c) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred d) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred e) Assertion cannot be inferred but the reason can be inferred f) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred g) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred</p>	1
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iv	<p>Choose the option that displays the same literary device as in the given lines of the extract.</p> <p>Her face ashen Like that Of corpse.....</p> <p>a) Just as I had this thought she appeared and b) My thoughts were as heavy as lead that evening c) I think like everyone else who.... d) I like to think aloud when...</p>	1
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v	<p>What is the tone of the poem.</p> <p>a) Sad b) Hopeless c) Cheerful d) Resignation with acceptance</p>	1
vi	<p>What does 'ashen face' signify?</p> <p>a) Burned face b) Face is covered with ash c) Pale and lifeless face of poet's mother d) Face is scarred</p>	1

OR

B	<p>For once on the face of the Earth let's not speak in any language, let's stop for one second, and not move our arms so much. It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines, we would all be together in a sudden strangeness</p>	
i	<p>The poet uses the word "let's" to _____</p> <p>a) initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers. b) invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity. c) welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject. d) address readers as fellow members of the human race</p>	1
ii	<p>Margaret Atwood said, "Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole."</p> <p>Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood's words and the line from the above extract – "let's not speak in any language"</p>	1

	<p>a) Atwood endorses Neruda's call to not speak in any language. b) Atwood justifies Neruda's request to not engage in any speaking. c) Atwood undermines Neruda's intent to stop and not speak in any language. d) Atwood surrenders to Neruda's desire for silence and not speak in any language</p>											
iii	<p>Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness"?</p> <p>a) To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once. b) To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelops human life. c) To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine. d) To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence</p>	1										
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v	<p>Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B.</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Column A</th> <th>Column B</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. On the face of the earth</td> <td>(i) In existence</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. What on earth</td> <td>(ii) To do all possible to accomplish something</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Move heaven and earth</td> <td>(iii) To express surprise or shock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. The salt of the earth</td> <td>(iv) To be good and worthy</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>a) 1 – (i); 2 – (iv); 3 – (iii); 4 – (ii) b) 1 – (i); 2 – (iii); 3 – (ii); 4 – (iv) c) 1 – (ii); 2 – (i); 3 – (iv); 4 – (iii) d) 1 – (iv); 2 – (ii); 3 – (iii); 4 – (i)</p>	Column A	Column B	1. On the face of the earth	(i) In existence	2. What on earth	(ii) To do all possible to accomplish something	3. Move heaven and earth	(iii) To express surprise or shock	4. The salt of the earth	(iv) To be good and worthy	1
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vi	<p>Read the statements given below carefully. Choose the option that best describes these statements, with reference to the poem.</p> <p>Statement I – The poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ calls for change as much in the individual as human society at large.</p> <p>Statement II – The poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ implies that individual change will lead to bigger societal change.</p> <p>Statement III – Neruda believes that when people come together as a community, they will be able to bring a transformation in each person.</p> <p>a) Statement I is True, Statement II is False, and Statement III cannot be inferred. b) Statement I and II cannot be inferred, Statement III is True. c) Statement I is True, Statements II and III cannot be inferred. d) Statement I cannot be inferred, Statement II cannot be inferred</p>	1
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8	Read the given extract and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given below.	
A	<p>Man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken. “The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea,” Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands” Yes, undoubtedly that would be best,” Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man. “If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die,” Sadao said. “The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea,” Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.</p>	
i	<p>In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with ‘stupor’?</p> <p>a) She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a slumber. b) The manager complained about the employee’s sluggishness. c) He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week. d) Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box</p>	1

ii	<p>Pick the option that best describes Sadao and Hana in the passage.</p> <table> <tr> <td>a) Sadao: scrupulous</td><td>Hana: wary</td></tr> <tr> <td>b) Sadao: daring</td><td>Hana: prudent</td></tr> <tr> <td>c) Sadao: prudent</td><td>Hana: suspicious</td></tr> <tr> <td>d) Sadao: wary</td><td>Hana: daring</td></tr> </table>	a) Sadao: scrupulous	Hana: wary	b) Sadao: daring	Hana: prudent	c) Sadao: prudent	Hana: suspicious	d) Sadao: wary	Hana: daring	1
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c) Sadao: prudent	Hana: suspicious									
d) Sadao: wary	Hana: daring									
iii	<p>Pick the idiom that best describes the situation in which Sadao and Hana were in.</p> <p>a) to be like a fish out of water b) like water off a duck's back c) to be dead in the water d) to be in hot water</p>	1								
iv	<p>Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.</p> <p>Statement 1: Sadao and Hana cared about the soldier but were worried about the consequences of being considerate.</p> <p>Statement 2: Sadao and Hana wanted to shirk their responsibilities of looking after an injured soldier, who could be an American.</p> <p>a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false. b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true. c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true. d) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.</p>	1								

OR

B.	<p>At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger into 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>	
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i	<p>Pick the option that uses the same figure of speech as 'town slept in peace'.</p> <p>a) His actions really flared up my temper, so I walked out. b) She is going through a rollercoaster of emotions. c) My alarm clock yells at me every morning until I get out of bed. d) The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.</p>	1
ii	<p>Pick the option that best describes the dewan's attitude.</p> <p>1. desperate 2. submissive 3. servile</p>	1

iv	<p>This description uses which literary device?</p> <p>a) Simile b) Metaphor c) Personification d) Hyperbole</p>	1
v	<p>The building was part of:</p> <p>a) A hospital b) Gemini Studios c) A school d) A newspaper office</p>	1
vi	<p>The extract reflects the author's:</p> <p>a) Admiration b) Amusement c) Disgust d) Jealousy</p>	1
OR		
B	<p>“They said their condition is miserable. Most of them were thin, poorly dressed, and undernourished. When Gandhi asked about their difficulties, they spoke hesitantly at first, as if afraid of being overheard. Gradually, their voices grew more confident. They revealed that for years they had been forced to grow indigo on 15% of their land and hand over the entire crop to the British landlords as rent. The system left them with very little land for food crops and almost no earnings.</p>	

i	<p>Who are “they” here?</p> <p>a) British officers b) Champaran peasants c) Gandhi's followers d) Lawyers</p>	1
ii	<p>What was the peasant's main grievance?</p> <p>a) High taxes b) Forced indigo cultivation c) Lack of schools d) Unemployment</p>	1

iii	The speaker being addressed is: a) Rajendra Prasad b) Mahatma Gandhi c) Motilal Nehru d) Charles Freer Andrews	1
iv	This appeal marks the beginning of: a) The Champaran movement b) Quit India Movement c) Civil Disobedience Movement d) Dandi March	1
v	The tone of the peasants in this extract is: a) Defiant b) Pleading c) Angry d) Casual	1
vi	The peasants' misery was mainly due to: a) Lack of rain b) Unfair sharecropping system c) Illiteracy alone d) Natural disasters	1

10	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words	5x2=10
i	At the end of his last lesson, M. Hamel decides to leave a little note for each of his students for them to find the next day at their desks. Based on your reading of the story, what might his note to Franz read? You may begin like this: Dear Franz, I know you have always preferred to run in the open fields.....	
ii	How would you evaluate Sam's character? Elucidate any two qualities, and substantiate with evidence from the text. (Third level)	
iii	Getting rid of fear is an extremely difficult task. Elucidate with reference to the chapter "Deep Water"	
iv	In all instances of frustration, you will always find the anger directed towards a single person openly or covertly...' Do you think it is right to direct our anger towards someone who is not responsible for the cause of anger? Justify. (poets and pancakes).	

v	Explain the possible reasons for Gandhi's quick popularity among the peasants of Champaran. (Indigo)	
vi	Despite his philosophical insights, the vagabond fails to resist temptations. What would you attribute this to? Explain with reference to any instance from the text. (The Rattrap)	
11	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words	2x2=4
i	Why the programme 'students on Ice' became so successful? (Journey to the End of Earth).	
ii	Comment on the significance of the symbol of 'Car' in the poem Roadside stand.	
iii	In a world that is constantly running after 'more' chasing the next new thing. Would it be fair to think of Neruda's call as merely fanciful idea.	
12	Answer Any ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	5
A	Imagine Gandhi were to deliver a speech to students in present day India showing them the path to becoming responsible world leaders. Based on your understanding of Gandhi's own leadership skills, write a speech, as Gandhi, addressing the students about the qualities that every leader and politician should nurture. Dear students, you are all leaders of social change. I see many bright and enthusiastic faces that assure me that our future is in good hands. I have learnt from my own experience.....(continue)..... (Indigo)	
OR		
B	After reading this story, you are impressed by the author's use of gentle humour to point out human foibles. Evaluate whether using such humour contributes towards bringing about change in people's attitude and accepting their foibles.(Poets and Pancakes)	
13	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words	5
A	How does the story, 'Rattrap' highlight the importance of community over isolation? Support your rationale with textual evidence. (The Rattrap')	
OR		
B	Good values are far above any other value system. How did Dr Sadao Succeeded as a doctor as well as a patriot? (The Enemy)	

