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Preliminary Examination (2025-26)
Standard - XII

Subject : English

Marks : 100

Date : 06.01.2026

Time : 8.15 am to 11.15 am

Important Instructions:

- (i) Each activity has to be answered in complete sentence/s. One word answer will not be given credit. Just the correct activity number written in case of options will not be given credit.
- (ii) Web diagrams, flow charts, tables etc. are to be presented exactly as they are with answers.
- (iii) In point 2 above, just words without the presentation of the activity format/design, will not be given credit. Use of colour pencils/pens etc. is not allowed. (Only blue/black pens are allowed).
- (iv) Multiple answers to the same activity will be treated as wrong and will not be given any credit.
- (v) Maintain the sequence of the section/Question Nos./Activities throughout the activity sheet.

Section A : Prose

Q1. A. Read the following extract and the activities followed by it. (13)

I remember, in fact, after my first trips to Southeast Asia, more than a decade ago, how I would come back to my apartment in New York, and lie in my bed, kept up by something more than jet lag, playing back, in my memory, over and over, all that I had experienced, and paging wistfully through my photographs and reading and re-reading my diaries, as if to extract some mystery from them. Anyone witnessing this strange scene would have drawn the right conclusion: I was in love.

When we go abroad is that we are objects of scrutiny as much as the people we scrutinize, and we are being consumed by the cultures we consume, as much on the road as when we are at home. At the very least, we are objects of speculation (and even desire) who can seem as exotic to the people around us as they do to us.

All, in that sense, believed in “being moved” as one of the points of taking trips, and “being transported” by private as well as public means: all saw that “ecstasy” (“ex-stasis”) tells us that our highest moments come when we’re not stationary, and that epiphany can follow movement as much as it precipitates it. When you go to a McDonald’s outlet in Kyoto, you will find Teriyaki McBurgers and Bacon Potato Pies. The placemats offer maps of the great temples of the city, and the posters all around broadcast the wonders of San Francisco, And-most crucial of all the young people eating their Big Macs, with baseball caps worn backwards, and tight 501 jeans, are still utterly and inalienably Japanese in the way they move, they nod, they sip their Oolong teas: and never to be mistaken for the patrons of a McDonald’s outlet in Rio, Morocco or Managua. These days a whole new realm of exotica arises out of the way one culture colours and appropriates the products of another. The other factor complicating and exciting all of this is people, who are, more and more, themselves as many-tongued

and mongrel as cities like Sydney or Toronto or Hong Kong. I am, in many ways, an increasingly typical specimen, if only because I was born, as the son of Indian parents, in England, moved to America at 7 and cannot really call myself an Indian, an American or an Englishman. I was, in short, a traveler at birth, for whom even a visit to the candy store was a trip through a foreign world where no one I saw quite matched my parents' inheritance, or my own. Besides, even those who don't move around the world find the world moving more and more around them. Walk just six blocks, in Queens or Berkeley, and you're travelling through several cultures in as many minutes; get into a cab outside the White House, and you're often in a piece of Addis Ababa. And technology, too, compounds this (sometimes deceptive) sense of availability, so that many people feel they can travel around the world without leaving the room-through cyberspace or CD-ROMs, videos and virtual travel. There are many challenges in this, of course, in what it says about essential notions of family and community and loyalty, and in the worry that air-conditioned, purely synthetic versions of places may replace the real thing-not to mention the fact that the world seems increasingly in flux, a moving target quicker than our notions of it. But there is, for the traveler at least, the sense that learning about home and learning about a foreign world can be one and the same thing.

All of us feel this from the cradle, and know, in some sense, that all the significant movement we ever take is internal. We travel when we see a movie, strike up a new friendship, get held up. Novels are often journeys as much as travel books are fictions; and though this has been true since at least as long ago as Sir John Mandeville's colourful 14th century accounts of a Far East he'd never visited, it's an even more shadowy distinction now, as genre distinctions join other borders in collapsing.

A1. Global Understanding. 2

State whether the following statements are True or False and rewrite the correct sentence.

- i. Ecstasy tells us that our highest moments come when we're not stationary
- ii. The writer was born in the United States.
- iii. One can experience several cultures by walking just six blocks from the White House.
- iv. Sir John Mandeville had written about his 14th century far east visit.

A2. Complex Factual. 2

What is the point made by the author by referring to the scenes in a McDonald's outlet in Kyoto?

A3. Inference/Interpretation/Analysis 2

What is 'something more than jetlag' that keeps the author up in his bed?

A4. Personal Response. 3

Do you think travelling helps a person grow mentally and emotionally? Give your opinion with suitable reasons.

A5. Language Study. **2**

- i. Anyone witnessing this strange scene would have drawn the right conclusion.
(Frame a Wh-question to get the underlined part as the answer)
- ii. Our highest moments come when we're not stationary.
(Change the degree of comparison to Positive.)

A6. Vocabulary. **2**

Find the antonyms of the given words from the passage.

- i. purebred
- ii. glance
- iii. unimportant
- iv. real

B. Non textual Grammar **(6)**

B1. Do as directed. **4**

- (i) Girl was cooking roots and tree leaves without Fire.
(Insert an appropriate article wherever it is necessary)
- (ii) I have taken poor man's way out - I swim..... them. I always have been fascinated..... the Indian Ocean.
(Fill in the blanks with suitable preposition and rewrite)
- (iii) The king asked them, "What do you call that game?"
(Rewrite it in to Indirect Speech)
- (iv) LIC is one of the most popular insurance companies in India.
(Rewrite your answer beginning with "very few")

B2. Spot the errors. **2**

- i. The sceneries of Darjeeling are very beautiful.
- ii. He is doing homework since 8 o'clock.

Q2. A. Read the following extract and the activities followed by it. **(13)**

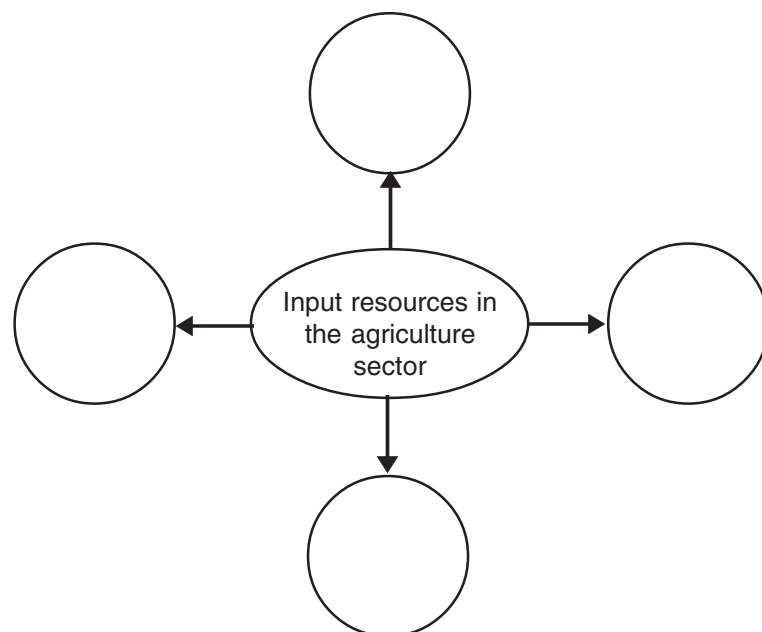
In the coming years, requirements for rapid changes in the skills of a large number of people in periods of say three to five years may become a continuous feature when newer technologies are introduced in to the economy. Such rapid changes will occur in all sectors, underlining how the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors are intertwined. In the agriculture sector there will be better optimization of input resources like seeds, soil conditioning, fertilizer micronutrient mixes, and pesticides and so on, as well as changes in the overall agriculture management. The agriculture sector may also use information technology much more intensively than it does now, be it in the use of remote sensing through satellites for regular monitoring of crops and soil conditions or water resources, or for better weather forecasts through satellites and ground borne systems. Or in the use of modern communications to be in closer touch

with old or new markets. Water quality may be monitored more carefully in the future whether for human or animal consumption. Rapid improvements in advanced sensors would make it possible to have such sensing system at affordable prices in many of our sectors.

In the industry and manufacturing sector, of course, the use of sensors, and modern electronics and information technology will be continual feature requiring rapid reorientation of the skills of not only the workforce but also the entire management including the board level operations. Installation of IT system for all these sectors, training persons at all levels and maintaining and improving their skills would be a major service industry.

Despite voluminous growth in the banking and insurance sector, processing and transactions have been carried out by largely manual means. A national network of banking and insurance business has to emerge. This lack adversely affected efficiency and is a major cause of the high rates charged for financial services. The introduction of IT for various operations at the earliest has become a necessity. This means use of computers for near total electronics data management and the use of telecommunications and multimedia data, adopting a total system approach.

- A1. Complete the web by writing the different input resources in the agricultural sector.** **2**



- A2. Find out:** **2**

Find out two changes that can be brought in agriculture sector with the help of the modern communication technology.

- A3. Guessing activity.** **2**

“The introduction of IT for various operations at the earliest has become necessity.” Guess out the reasons for it. Write your answer in 5 to 6 sentences.

A4. Personal Response. **3**

Digital literacy has become necessity and an important aspect of modern day to day life. Write your views.

A5. Language study. **2**

- (i) Such rapid changes will occur in all sectors.
(Make a rhetorical question and rewrite)
- (ii) Water quality may be monitored carefully in the future.
(Given below are four options, find out and write down the correct makes sentence more definite)
 - (a) Water quality ought to be monitored carefully in the future.
 - (b) Water quality shall be monitored carefully in the future.
 - (c) Water quality will be monitored carefully in the future.
 - (d) Water quality must be monitored carefully in the future.

A6. Vocabulary. **2**

The following words in the extract mean:

- (a) Optimization
- (b) intertwined
- (c) pesticides
- (d) voluminous

B. Summary Writing. **(4)**

Write a summary of the above extract in brief and suggest a suitable title.

You can use the following clues to write a summary.

Need of Information Technology need of digital skills - development economy - various sectors - banking sector - insurance sector services rendering to people.

C. Mind Mapping. **(4)**

You and your family are thinking to visit a hill station during this summer. Prepare a Mind Mapping frame for it with the help of the following points.

Place to visit, Mode of Transport. Accommodation., Stuff to carry with you and anything that comes in your mind related to it.

Section B: Poetry

Q3. A. Read the given poem and answer the following questions. (11)

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

A1. Global Understanding 2

After reading the poem match Column A with Column B.

Column A	Column B
The lady's beauty	Wavy and black
Her hair	Soft, calm and eloquent
Her smile	Expresses thoughts serenely and sweetly
Her face	A cloudless starry night

A2. Inference/interpretation/Analysis 2

Explain the meaning of the following lines from the poem.

"Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling place"

A3. Personal Response 3

In your opinion is there any co-relation between outer beauty and inner beauty?

A4. Poetic Device 2

Identify and explain the figure of speech from the poem.

"One shade the more, one ray the less"

A5. Poetic Creativity 2

Compose a poem of at least 4-6 lines on the topic 'Beauty of Nature'.

- B. Read the given poem and write a poetic appreciation with the help of following points. (5)**

My father travels on the late evening train
Standing among silent commuters in the yellow light
Suburbs slide past his unseeing eyes
His shirt and pants are soggy and his black raincoat
Stained with mud and his bag stuffed with books is falling apart.
His eyes dimmed by age
Fade homeward through the humid monsoon night.
Now I can see him getting off the train
Like a word dropped from a long sentence.
Crosses the railway line, enters the lane,
He hurries across the length of the grey platform,
His chappals are sticky with mud, but he hurries onward.
Home again, I see him drinking weak tea,
Eating a stale chapati, reading a book
He goes into the toilet to contemplate
Man's estrangement from a man-made world.
Coming out he trembles at the sink,
The cold water running over his brown hands,
A few droplets cling to the greying hair on his wrists.
His sullen children have often refused to share
Jokes and secrets with him.
He will now go to sleep listening to the static on the radio, dreaming
Of his ancestors and grandchildren, thinking
Of nomads entering a subcontinent through a narrow pass.

About the poet and poem

Theme

Poetic Device

Your opinion

Section C: Writing Skills

- Q4. A. Attempt any one of the following. (5)**

Virtual Message

Using the information given below, write a message which Shiksha has left for her mother. Do not add any new information.

Reema called up – her elder sister takes French classes – a new language – first batch receives discount – gone to take admission – will return after lunch

Or

Statement of Purpose

You are a student who wants to study a course in Creative Writing. Your life's goal is to become a published author like Enid Blyton or Stephen King. One fine day you see a flier for a course titled – Integrated Creative Writing Programme. Realising that this is your chance to make true on your chance to make true on your lifelong ambition of writing, you begin your application process for admission in this course. Write a Statement of Purpose seeking admission in this course by highlighting your skills – creative writing, reading, exceptional knowledge of linguistics and grammar.

Or

Group Discussion

Radha, Sagar, Rachana and Aarav are participating in a group discussion. The evaluator has given them a topic 'Teenagers are more inclined towards junk food nowadays'. Write suitable dialogues for each participant giving his/her opinion on the topic.

B. Attempt any one of the following. (5)

E-mail

Imagine that you are a sales manager of showroom selling cars. A customer had booked a car for which he had deposited advance and had been assured delivery in ten days' time. The supply got delayed on account of shutdown of factory for preventive maintenance. The annoyed customer rang up after two weeks, write an email to him/her apologizing for the delay.

Or

Report Writing

Your collage organized, "Save Girl Child Movement". The Health Minister of Maharashtra State Mr. Prakashrao Abitkar was invited to launch this campaign. Write a report of this function.

Or

Interview Questions

Your collage has decided to celebrate the World Environment Day. Mr. Kiran Purandare has been invited as the 'Chief Guest' for the event. Imagine you are the secretary of the 'Nature Club' of your college and you have to conduct an interview of Mr. Kiran Purandare. Frame 8/10 questions for the same.

C. Attempt any one of the following. (5)

Speech Writing

Prepare a speech on the topic 'Science and superstitions'.

Or

Compering

Imagine that you have been entrusted to comper the ceremonial flag hoisting programme by your district administration on the occasion of formal "Republic Day" function at your district headquarters. Prepare a script for compering of the ceremony with the help of following points. Use some good thoughts and inspiring quotations.

- *Introduction
- *Welcoming all the VIPs
- *Flag hoisting by the Guardian Minister
- *Speech by Guardian Minister
- *March past by the police and NCC troops
- *Conclusion of the formal ceremony

Or

Expansion of Idea

Expand the following idea.

‘Argument is the worst kind of communication’.

D. Attempt any one of the following. (5)

Review

Write a review of a film that you have watched recently and liked very much with the help of following points.

Name of the characters. (main and supporting roles)

About the story / theme

Musical features / novelties / novel ideas

Music/dance/songs / action / direction

Or

Blog Writing

Write a blog on the topic ‘Healthy Morning Routine’.

Or

Appeal

Write an appeal to ask people join ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’.

Section D: Literary Genre: Novel

Q5. A. Do the following as per the instructions. (6)

1. Match the following. 3

Column A	Column B
Geoffrey Chaucer	Clarissa
Herman Melville	Evelina
Frances Burney	Don Quixote
Samuel Richardson	Rajmohan's Wife
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay	Billy Bud
Miguel De Cervantes	The Canterbury Tells

2. Add a word to the sentence as an answer and rewrite. (3)

- a. Setting includes place, period, time, climate or weather and _____.
- b. The German word 'bildungsroman' indicate _____.
- c. The realistic novel is also called a novel of _____.
- d. Science fiction is a genre of speculative fiction flourished in the second half of the _____.
- e. The struggle between the opposite forces in the story is called _____.
- f. The 'picaresque' is originated from the Spanish word _____.

B. Answer the following questions. (6)

1. Write the character sketch of 'Denham'.
2. How does Mr. Braithwaite manage to increase the cultural exposure of the class.

C. Answer the following questions. (6)

1. Phileas Fogg knocked detective Fix down. Give reasons.
2. Write 4-5 sentences on the 'Morality' theme of the extract.

D. Answer the following questions. (6)

1. Describe how Sherlock Holmes discovered the connection between Miss Morstan receiving precious pearls with Major Sholto.
2. Describe in brief the importance of London in the extract.

