

**General Instructions:**

*Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:*

*(i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.*

*(ii) The question paper contains THREE sections:*

*Section A: Reading Skills Section*

*B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills Section*

*C: Literature Textbook*

*(iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.*

**(SECTION A: READING SKILLS)**

**(20 Marks)**

**1. Read the following passage.**

**[10]**

- (1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact, creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.
- (2) Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organisation and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.
- (3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 per cent of 3 to 5 years old exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 per cent among 13 to 15 years old and a mere 2 per cent among 25 years old. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although, all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.
- (4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide — our rising inequality — that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third of people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed "the other 66 percent", in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.
- (5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us — in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalising cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us.

**(Created for academic usage / 410 words)**

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:**

I. Why is creativity described as the most "precious and inexhaustible" resource in paragraph 1? [1]

II. According to paragraph 1, creativity involves all of the following EXCEPT. [1]

- (a) combining ideas and materials
- (b) working in total isolation
- (c) finding new ways of thinking and doing
- (d) being naturally endowed with imagination

III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets: [1]

The presence of other creative people makes creativity a \_\_\_\_\_ process.

(individua// social) **(Paragraph 1)**

IV. Select the option that is True from (a)-(c) given for what the phrase "unconventional thinking ability" suggests in paragraph 3. [1]

- (a) The ability to think creatively and differently from the norm
- (b) A preference for logical and repetitive thinking
- (c) A skill only possessed by adults with higher education

V. Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a), (b): creative society: individual contribution: [1]

- (a) urbanization : modern architecture
- (b) diversity: idea generation

VI. Why is the decline in creativity with age, considered concerning by the writer? [2]

**(Paragraph 3)**

VII. What are the main ideas of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5? [1]

- (i) Creativity is mostly limited to artists and writers.
- (ii) Creativity is affected by socio-economic inequality.
- (iii) A majority of people are unable to engage their creative abilities.
- (iv) A creative society must value everyone's ideas.
- (v) Creativity is equally distributed across all professions.

**Select the correct option:**

Options	Main idea of paragraph 4	Main idea of paragraph 5
(a)	ii	iv
(b)	i	v
(c)	iii	ii
(d)	v	i

VIII. Why is it important for society to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be creative, according to paragraph 5? [2]

2. **Read the following passage:** [10]

(1) The climate and landscape in Uttarakhand vary greatly with altitude (186 - 7619 m), from the largest glaciers in the higher elevation to the subtropical forests in the lowest elevation.

(2) The lowlands along the border of U.P. are covered by the drier Terai-Savanna grasslands, the moist deciduous forest of the Upper Gangetic Plains forms the Bhabhar belt. Due to the extensive

agricultural practices, most of these lowland forests have been cleared. Snow and bare ice occupy the highest altitudes.

(3) This state occupies 53,483 sq.km, (1.63% of India's total land area). Out of 13 districts, Uttarkashi occupies the maximum area of 8039 sq. km, while Champawat covers the minimum area of 1634 sq. km. Uttarakhand experiences four types of seasons, namely, Monsoon (June to September), Post-monsoon (October to November), Cold weather (December to February) and Pre-monsoon (March to May). The normal annual precipitation in the state is 1446 mm. Rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September. The monsoon rainfall is 78% of the annual rainfall. This makes the state prone to flooding during the monsoon. Bageshwar receives the maximum normal annual rainfall (1872 mm). 81% of this rainfall occurs in the monsoon season. Haridwar receives the minimum normal annual rainfall (1107 mm).

(4) Due to the differences in topographical features, temperatures vary 'widely. During March and April, temperatures rise until they peak in May and June, when the mean maximum temperature in the southern and valley regions is between 34° and 38°C, and the mean minimum temperature is between 20° and 24°C. Temperatures can reach 42°C in the valleys and southern half of the state and 30°C in two-kilometer-high elevations on some days. Day and night temperatures begin to dip around the end of September and reach their lowest in January and early February. January is the coldest month, with an average maximum temperature of 20°C and an average minimum temperature of 6°C. The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from 10° to 12°C at altitudes of 2 km.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:**

I. Why did the passage most likely focus on climatic and geographical features across various elevations of Uttarakhand? This is so because these variations . [1]

(a) show how different altitudes lead to different landforms and climates

(b) highlight the rich tribal population of Uttarakhand

(c) focus only on river valleys and hill stations

(d) affect tourism but not agriculture

II. Identify the phrase in paragraph 2 that indicates how most lowland forests have been affected due to human activity. [1]

III. Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.

Bageshwar receives the maximum rainfall, and Haridwar the least, which highlights the (uniformity / variation) in precipitation across Uttarakhand. (Paragraph 3) [1]

IV. What does the writer imply by calling the state prone to flood during monsoon in paragraph 3? [1]

V. Complete the following with the correct option: [1]

When the writer says "temperatures vary widely" in paragraph 4, s/he means that:

(a) Uttarakhand's temperatures remain consistent throughout the year.

(b) Valley and southern regions are colder than hill districts.

(c) There is a considerable range of temperature due to varying elevations.

(d) Rainfall affects temperature fluctuations across the entire state.

VI. Complete the sentence appropriately: [1]

One likely reason for the sharp rise in temperature during May and June in southern and valley regions of Uttarakhand is \_\_\_\_\_.

VII. How are "altitude" and "temperature range" connected, as suggested in paragraph 4? [1]

VIII. Explain how the variation in climatic zones across altitudes in Uttarakhand influences forest types and human activity. (Paragraphs 1 & 2) [2]

IX. Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. (Paragraph 3) [1]

Extensive agricultural practices have led to \_\_\_\_\_ of natural forest cover in the lowlands of Uttarakhand.

**(SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR)**

**GRAMMAR**

**(20 marks)**

**3. Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed: [10 x 1 = 10]**

(I) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket: Mahi \_\_\_\_\_(shirk) the task given to her and went out to play.

(II) Identify and correct the error in the sentence taken from the article - 'The Hidden Health Risks of Bread Consumption.' [1]

*Health experts worldwide are concerning about the surge in health problems.*

Error	Correction

(III) Rahil and Somil decided to reach the theatre at 5 p.m. Report the question asked by Rahil to Somil. [1]

Which movie are we going to watch?

Rahil asked Somil \_\_\_\_\_

(IV) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the concluding part of an article on 'Exploitation of Children'. [1]

It \_\_\_\_\_ (may / should/ could) be our concerted effort not to employ children in industries and to save them from any kind of exploitation.

(V) Complete the given sentence by selecting the correct option: [1]

*The information given here \_\_\_\_\_ to all the products in this section.*

(a) apply                      (b) applied                      (c) isapplied                      (d) applies

(VI) Read the given sentence from a travel blog. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. [1]

Spend a night under the stars in a traditional camp, where you can experience the warmth of our hospitable and savour the delicious local cuisine.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(VII) Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some students, by selecting the correct option. [1]

*Since morning the group of students excited about the forthcoming cultural fest.*

(a) are                      (b) was                      (c) has been                      (d) were



slowing down. Write a letter in about 120 words to the Traffic Commissioner, drawing his attention to the problem and giving suggestions. You are Sant/Savita. [5]

**OR**

(B) You are Anjali Gehlot/Rohan Hora living at 867, Lime Road Heights, Tram Nagar. You have noticed how new technologies have paved their way into every aspect of our lives. On the one hand, they have revolutionised the way we live, work and communicate, and on the other hand, they have raised concerns about data privacy and security. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, discussing the benefits and risks of new technologies in our daily lives.

5. (A) You are the President of your school's Environment Club, which is hosting an inter-school panel discussion on the topic: "Climate Change and Youth Action: Making a Difference." Two environmentalists have expressed their interest in being guest speakers at this event. Read their excerpts below and decide who to invite. [5]

**Excerpt 1 From**

**Ms. Kavita Mehra**

*Subject: Guest Speaker - "Sustainable Living: The Youth Perspective"*

Dear President

I would be honoured to speak at your event on climate change and youth engagement. As an environmental journalist and climate educator, I've conducted over 200 school and college awareness sessions. I use real-life stories and interactive visuals to explain how small lifestyle changes—like reducing waste and saving water—can make a large impact. My sessions are known for empowering students with tools for immediate action and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the planet.

**Warm regards**

**Kavita Mehra**

**Excerpt 2**

**From Dr. Neil D'Souza**

*Subject: Guest Speaker - "Global Climate Policies and India's Role"*

Dear President

It would be a pleasure to contribute to your panel on youth and climate change. I am a climate policy analyst and have represented India at the UN Youth Climate Forum. My talks focus on connecting policy with local action, helping students understand international frameworks like the Paris Agreement. I use infographics, quizzes and simulations to engage learners, and help them see themselves as future policy leaders.

**Sincerely,**

**Dr. Neil D'Souza**

Write an analytical paragraph evaluating the two candidates and justify your selection. Consider the speaker's experience, student connection and the impact on the audience.

**OR**

(B) Aarav, a Class X student, is known for his strong writing skills, logical thinking, and preference for working quietly and independently. However, he sometimes overthinks and delays final submissions. For a multimedia history project, he must choose one digital tool (X, Y, or Z) to organise his research and create a final product. Below are the summaries of the tools. [5]

**Tool X** - Timeline Builder App Allows users to create interactive historical timelines with text, images and videos. Supports independent research and clear chronological organisation. Can be time-consuming if too many entries are added; requires regular progress checks.

**Tool Y**, - Group-Based Storyboard Platform Encourages team collaboration to build animated storyboards on historical events. Engages creativity and teamwork. Less suited to solo projects; progress depends on group dynamics and participation.

**Tool Z** - AI-based Research Assistant Provides automated content summaries, historical data insights and citation suggestions. Helps streamline research but may lead to over-reliance. Risk of reduced original input; encourages passive learning if not used wisely. Based on Aarav's strengths and challenges, as well as the needs of the project, decide which tool he should use. Justify your choice in a paragraph, comparing it with the other options.

**(SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK)**

**(40 Marks)**

**6. Read the given extracts (A) and (B) and answer ANY ONE of the two. [5]**

**(A)** It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

**(Nelson Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom) (D)**

I. What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker? [1]

Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.

II. Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context: [1]

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

(a) being fearless (b) absence of fear (c) feeding your fears (d) ability to overcome fear

III. Answer in about 40 words, with reference to the extract: [2]

According to the author, what does true courage entail? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage?

IV. Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract:

Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is

**(impossible to understand/seeped in reality).** [1]

**OR**

**(B)** Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man, there would be no limit to what I could achieve. It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way, but he did not seem to mind. *(The Thief's Story)* (E)

I. What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil? [1]

"I think he knew I made a little money this way, but he did not seem to mind."

II. Which of the following best describes the realization. Hari Singh had while working for Anil? [1]

- (a) That he would become a rich person one day.
- (b) That Anil was a very intelligent master but a miser.
- (c) That he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated.
- (d) That Anil made a lot of money from his job.

III. What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

IV. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. [1]

The narrator earned extra money by making a/an (profit/investment) of about a rupee a day.

7. **Read the given extracts (A) and (B) and answer ANY ONE of the two.** [5]

(A) "I heard an old religious man

But yesternight declare

That he had found

That only God, my dear,

Could love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair."

(For Anne Gregory) (D)

I. Complete the sentence appropriately: [1]

The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as "my dear" because \_\_\_\_\_

II. The poet mentions "yellow hair". What is its significance in the context of the statement? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. [1]

The poet suggests that God's love, in comparison to that of a human being, is \_\_\_\_\_ (selfish/selfless).

IV. As per the above extract, what attributes does God not love a person for?

Select the correct option. [1]

1. Wealth

2. Physical appearance

3. Intelligence

4. Inner qualities

5. Youth

(a) 1 and 4

(b) 3, 4, and 5

(c) 2 and 5

(d) Only 4

**OR**

(B) No use to say 'O there are other balls

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy

As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

All his young days into the harbour where his ball went.

I would not intrude on him,

A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now

He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external

He is learning .....

(The Ball Poem)

[M]

I. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards the boy's reaction to losing his ball? [1]

- (a) Indifferent as the ball is inexpensive.
- (b) Sympathetic, understanding the depth of the boy's loss.
- (c) Mocking, finding the boy's reaction exaggerated and unnecessary.
- (d) Panicked, sharing the boy's distress over the lost ball.

II. Comment on the use of metaphor in the above extract. [1]

III. Explain the phrase 'all his young days into the harbour' with reference to the extract. [1]

IV. Briefly state in about 40 words the boy's journey from 'shaking grief' to 'he is learning' in the above extract. [2]

**8. Answer any four of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. [4 x 3 = 12]**

I. Describe how the poem, 'The Trees', brings out the conflict between man and nature. (M)

II. Pranjal seemed to have a different level of enthusiasm compared to Rajvir when -they both saw the tree plantation. Justify. (Glimpses of India) [E]

III. The story, 'Mijbil the Otter', has it all - emotions, humour, certain surprising incidents and the freshness of a new and unique type of story. / Explain how Maxwell has highlighted these in his story. (Mybil - The Otter) [M]

IV. Valli emerges as a meticulous planner. Elaborate with evidence from the text. [E]

(Madam Rides the Bus)

V. Why is the term 'bear hug' ironical? (How to Tell Wild Animals) (D)

**9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. [2 x 3 = 6]**

I. How does 'The Necklace' illustrate the significance of honesty as the key element for leading a happy and stress-free life? [3]

II. Briefly evaluate the validity of the adage 'Values are caught, not taught', in the context of the relationship between Anil and Hari Singh in 'The Thief's Story'. [3]

III. Griffin's experiences moments of comfort and normalcy while being invisible. How do these fleeting moments impact his sense of identity and his actions throughout 'Footprints without Feet'? [3]

**10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. [1 x 6]**

(A) How does literature like 'The Baker from Goa, 'Coorg,' and 'Tea from Assam' contribute to promoting tourism and raising awareness about regional cultures and traditions? [6]

**OR**

(B) The poems, 'The Trees' and 'A Tiger in the Zoo' resonate the theme of importance of freedom and the desire to break free from any kind of dominance. Examine. [6]

**11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. [1 x 6]**

(A) How does the author use the narrative technique of misdirection in 'The Midnight Visitor', to enhance the suspense and the story's unexpected ending? [6]

**OR**

(B) Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in die 'The Triumph of Surgery'. [6]