

**RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL, BANGALORE**  
**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2023 -24**  
**ENGLISH CORE (CODE NO. 301)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**SET - IV**

**General Instructions:**

1. 15 Minute prior reading times allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE Sections-Reading, Writing and Literature.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION – A**  
**READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)**

**Q1** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12)

1 Mother Teresa's death on 5th September, 1997 has created a huge void. It was a tragic loss to Calcutta (Kolkata) and India in particular and the entire humanity in general with her death, a chapter of history has come to an end, and most unfortunately an era happened to be closed. However, it gives some satisfaction that she chose India, the land of Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi, as the country of her work, service and life.

2 The demise of this 'saint of the gutters' at the age of 87 years plunged millions of people into sorrow and mourning and orphaned thousands of people. Physically, she is no more but her spirit of love, service, charity and compassion is always there to guide and help us.

3 Mother Teresa believed in the eternity of the soul. Although she was a Catholic Christian, her love and compassion was all inclusive and pervading. Her spirit of service and kindness transcended all barriers of caste, creed, sex, nations, etc., and she reached to all those who needed her love, compassion and service.

4 She saw God in all the people and served the poor, the deprived, the destitute and the helpless regarding them as her own brothers and sisters and mostly the children of God. It is this deep compassion, charity and generosity of heart that make her a great saint and saviour of humanity at large. She believed that God had sent her to serve the poor, the weak and the deprived.

5 The message from God came to her one fine day when she was travelling to Darjeeling from Calcutta and then at once she plunged into the selfless service of the suffering humanity. She saw the manifestation of God in every human being and felt that she was serving the Lord when she served a leper or a dying person.

6 Her concern, care and compassion for the leper, the suffering, the deprived, the dying and living in abject poverty were limitless. She served the aged and the destitute, the slum-dwellers throughout her life in a way in which only she could have done.

7 She reached out to all those who needed her the most-the lowest the unwanted and the weakest of the society. She saw in them the dying suffering and the abandoned Christ. She served even the faithless because her own faith in humanity, God and his creation was too deep to be expressed. Her mission was only to serve the poorest of the poor in the best possible way.

**Q** Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions. Choose the correct option wherever given.

- (i) Mother Teresa was known as the 'Saint of the Gutters'. List a reason behind it.
  - (a) She helped the poor and the rich.
  - (b) She helped the old and weak.
  - (c) She helped the unwell and unfit.
  - (d) She helped the old, under-privileged and the destitute.
- (ii) Select an option that reflects why Mother Teresa's death a great loss to mankind.
  - (a) She served millions of needy people.
  - (b) She was a popular personality.
  - (c) She was a great orator.
  - (d) She was a saint.
- (iii) What did she see in the lowest, the unwanted and the weakest of the society?
  - 1 the dying
  - 2 the suffering
  - 3 the old
  - 4 the women
  - 5 the abandoned Christ
  - (a) (1) and (5)
  - (b) (1), (3) and (4)
  - (c) (2) and (5)
  - (d) (1), (2) and (5)
- (iv) What qualities of Mother Teresa makes her alive even after death? (Write your answers)
- (v) According to the passage, when did Mother Teresa hear the message from God?
  - (a) When she came to India.
  - (b) When she started helping the poor and the destitute.
  - (c) When she was travelling to Darjeeling.
  - (d) When she was travelling to Calcutta.
- (vi) Does the following statement agree with the information given in the passage?

Mother Teresa did not serve or help the elite class.

True: if the statement agrees with the information.

False: if the statement contradicts with the information.

Not given: if there is no information on this.

- (vii) Mother Teresa's death on 5th September, 1997 has created a huge void. What does the word 'void' mean here?
- (viii) Choose a word from the passage that means 'to pass' or 'cross'.
- (a) Mourning
  - (b) Eternity
  - (c) Compassion
  - (d) Transcended
- (ix) Complete the given analogy correctly with a word.
- Rich: ..... poor: destitute
- (x) How did Mother Teresa help the poorest of the poor?
- (a) With great expenditure on them.
  - (b) By big physical efforts.
  - (c) As best as one would have done.
  - (d) In an inhumane way.
- (xi) How do we know that Mother Teresa's love and compassion was 'all inclusive'?
- (xii) What was her life's mission?

Q2 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1 India's elephant habitat has expanded with the jumbo population stable at 27,000, according to a census of the animals released by the Union ministry of environment, forests and climatic changes on Saturday, 12th August, World Elephant day.

2 The report, 'Synchronized elephant population estimation India, 2017', pegs the exact population of jumbos at 27,312 with Karnataka accounting for the biggest share followed by Assam. The figures show a decline in the overall population, from 29,391 to 30,711 in 2012, but this has been attributed to a difference in the counting method. "There is no question of a decline," said elephant expert and head of Asian Nature Conservation Foundation, R. Sukumar. Experts termed the 'expansion' trend worrying because it could lead to an increase in human-animal conflicts.

3 Jumbos have been reported for the first time in Manipur, Mizoram, Bihar, MP, Haryana, HP and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, indicating disturbance in the wild animals' original areas or climatic changes impact like temperature and precipitation modification.

4 "This expansion has been happening gradually over 30 years. It is worrying because it will be difficult to manage. The real challenge is that elephants are moving to other forest

areas, which could increase the potential for conflicts with humans', Sukumar said, adding that the last mass translocation was reported from Tamil Nadu in 1983, following a major drought. Herds of elephants had moved to Andhra Pradesh where the Jumbo population had been absent for over two centuries.

5 The ministry carries out the annual survey by employing two methods-direct and indirect. In the direct method, forest blocks of 4 to 5 sq. km. are sampled by state forest department staff. The indirect method helps validate the direct method by mapping elephant distributions in a GIS domain by analysing dung count and compiling photographs.

6 "This year all states employed the direct method as there was no time to complete the indirect count method, once we finish that, we will get more accurate picture. A more detailed report", said Sukumar.

Q Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

- (i) ..... reported the stable condition of jumbo population.
  - (a) Census of the animals by the Union ministry of environment
  - (b) Census of the animals by the Chief ministry of environment
  - (c) Census of the animals released by the Union ministry of Animals
  - (d) Census of the animals released by the Government
- (ii) Which states have satisfactory population of jumbos?
  - 1 Assam
  - 2 Odisha
  - 3 Uttar Pradesh
  - 4 Maharashtra
  - 5 Karnataka
  - (a) (1) and (3)
  - (b) (2), (4) and (5)
  - (c) (1) and (5)
  - (d) Only (4)
- (iii) According to statistical data given in the passage, what is the report of the population of the elephants?  
It went .....
- (iv) Why is the 'expansion' worrying?
  - (a) It will lead to human-animal conflict.
  - (b) It will be difficult to manage them.
  - (c) It will lead to forest destruction.
  - (d) Both (a) and (b).
- (v) Which Indian state has seen a miraculous jumbo migration?
- (vi) Select a possible reason for the human-animal conflict due to the rise of jumbo population.

- (a) They will move into other forest areas.
  - (b) They will take over humans.
  - (c) They will create ruckus.
  - (d) They will destroy human abodes.
- (vii) What is the major issue which could be a reason for the translocation of elephants, as per the given data?
- (viii) Does the following statement agree with the given information in the passage? The ministry carries out the annual survey by employing two methods which are direct and indirect.
- True: if the statement agrees with the information  
 False: if the statement contradicts with the information.  
 Not given: if there is no information on this.
- (ix) Select an option that states the correct detailed report of the number of elephants in a state.
- (a) By counting properly
  - (b) By using high technology
  - (c) By being accurate
  - (d) By using direct method
- (x) Choose the word that states the CORRECT meaning of the term 'pegs'.
- (a) Opposite
  - (b) State
  - (c) Clear
  - (d) Vague

**SECTION – B**  
**WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)**

- Q3 Attempt ANY ONE of the following: (4)
- (A) You are Amit Singh, Head boy of St Mary's High School Pune. A charitable trust is coming to your school to distribute books to the needy students. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words and asks the students to drop-in the names of the books that they want to get for free.
- (B) You had lost your wallet in the school canteen. Draft a notice, in not more than 50 words, to be placed on your school notice board about the same. You are Joy/Jessica, student of Class XII of D.P.S.Mathura.
- Q4 Attempt ANY ONE of the following: (4)
- (A) The Literary Club of your school is organising a book fair to mark 'World Reading Day.' As the head of the Club, invite the famous author Sabama Roy to inaugurate the event as the Guest of Honour. Do not exceed 50 words.

(B) Your friend has invited you to the house warming ceremony of his newly bought flat. You have a meeting to attend in Mumbai and cannot attend the event. Write in about 50 words an informal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Geet/Geetika Rastogi, 1/22, Anand Vihar, Bangalore.

Q5 Attempt ANY ONE of the following: (5)

(A) Bangalore is badly hit by floods due to heavy rains. The victims are suffering financially, physically and mentally. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of 'The Hindu' giving details of the loss of life and property. Also, make an appeal to the people and the Government to provide help and relief to the afflicted. You are Sameer/Sadia, 13-F, Gokul Apartments, Bangalore.

(B) You are Jagdeesh Rathore, a resident of 12/24, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. Write an application along with a personal resume in 120-150 words in response to the following advertisement in a local daily.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WANTED</b> An experienced Tennis coach B.PEd. degree is a must Apply to: The Principal Wilhelm Girls School, New Delhi – 25 Apply by : 17 Jan 2024</p>
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Q6 Attempt ANY ONE of the following: (5)

(A) You are Alka Misra, the head girl of Sunrise Public School. A seminar on "Water Conservation" was held in your school recently and you have to write a report about the same in 120-150 words for the school magazine. You can use the cues given below:

- Attended by different school students
- Water Board Chief Officer and IG city present
- Skits on water scarcity by students
- Tips to save water by the special guests

(B) You are Aman/Ananya Dutt, a student of class XII, Delhi Public School, Bhopal. You want to highlight the need for helping society by the students. Write a speech on 'Social service should be made mandatory for students' to be delivered in the school assembly.

**SECTION – C**  
**LITERATURE (40 MARKS)**

Q.7. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow: (6)

(A) *Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days.  
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits.*

(i) "Therefore on every morrow, are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to the Earth". Choose an option that states the correct meaning of the given phrase.

- (a) We fill ourselves with joy.
- (b) We attach ourselves with beautiful things.
- (c) We make garlands of flowers to be happy.
- (d) We bind the flowers to the Earth.

(ii) By 'inhuman dearth of noble natures', the poet means that .....

- (a) There is a shortage of inhumanity in the current world.
- (b) There is a shortage of men on earth.
- (c) There is a shortage of noble men in the current world.
- (d) There is no inhuman men on earth.

(iii) A thing of beauty takes away all our .....

- 1 Pain
- 2 Joy
- 3 Excitement
- 4 Suffering
- 5 Beauty

- (a) (1), (3) and (5)
- (b) (1) and (4)
- (c) Only (2)
- (d) Only (3)

(iv) Choose the option that, reflects the correct meaning of the phrase: 'the pall from our dark spirits'.

- (a) The gloom from our spirits.
- (b) The darkness from our rooms.
- (c) The happiness from our life.
- (d) The soul from our dark spirits.

(v) Identify the poetic device in 'A flowery band to bind us to the earth.'

(vi) List the correct rhyme scheme of the given stanza.

(B) *Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull*

*The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

- (i) Select the correct options from the given statements, based on your reading of the extract.
- 1 Aunt Jennifer's trembling hands were a result of her oppressed married life with her dominating husband.
- 2 Aunt Jennifer's trembling hands were a result of her old age.
- (a) (1) is false but (2) is true
- (b) (2) is false but (1) is true
- (c) Both (1) and (2) are false
- (d) Both (1) and (2) are true
- (ii) List the poetic device in the line – 'The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'.
- (iii) Identify the quality that was present in the tigers that aunt created but lacked in her own self.
- (iv) The 'wedding band' was a symbol of ..... for Aunt Jennifer.
- (a) the misery of her married life
- (b) the love for her husband
- (c) the proof of her marriage
- (d) the style sense
- (v) Identify Aunt Jennifer's qualities from the phrase- "fluttering fingers".
- 1 happy
- 2 old
- 3 scared
- 4 mature
- 5 nervous
- (a) (1) and (4)
- (b) (2), (3) and (5)
- (c) (3) and (5)
- (d) (2) and (4) [1]
- (vi) Choose the word that means the same as 'fluttering'.
- (a) Stiff
- (b) Creative
- (c) Trembling
- (d) Dilated

Q8 Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (4)

(A) DERRY: Aren't you interested?

MR LAMB: You're a boy who came into the garden. Plenty do. I'm interested in anybody.



Anything. There's nothing God made that doesn't interest me. Look over there-.over beside the far wall. What can you see?

DERRY: Rubbish.

MR LAMB: Rubbish? Look, boy, look. What do you see?

DERRY: Just grass and stuff. Weeds.

MR LAMB: Some call them weeds. If you like, then.-.a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there -weeds. I grow weeds there. Why one green, growing plant is called a weed and another 'flower'? Where's the difference. It's all life growing. Same as you and me.

DERRY: We're not the same.

- (i) From the statement "I'm interested in anybody", what can you infer about Mr.Lamb?
  - (a) His big area of interest.
  - (b) His longing for a company.
  - (c) His disregard for Derry.
  - (d) His closeness to strangers.
- (ii) Identify Derry's approach in life from the given extract.
- (iii) List one of the characteristics of Mr.Lamb as suggested from the extract.
- (iv) Where's the difference. It's all life™. From the given line, Mr. Lamb wanted to say that:
  - (a) Nothing is interesting.
  - (b) Everything is identical
  - (c) Everything has its own beauty.
  - (d) Nothing is positive.

(B) But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day. Late in the morning, my friend Judewin gave me a terrible warning. Judewin knew a few words of English; and she had overheard the paleface woman talk about cutting our long, heavy hair. Our mothers had taught us that only unskilled warriors who were captured had their hair shingled by the enemy. Among our people, short hair was worn by mourners, and shingled hair by cowards! We discussed our fate some moments, and when Judewin said, "We have to submit, because they are strong," I rebelled.

- (i) By 'eating by formula', Zitkala-Sa means to eat .....
- (ii) Choose an option that reflects Zitkala- Sa's people's attitude to long hair.
  - 1 Long hair symbolised good health and strength.
  - 2 They prized their long hair and wore them long.
  - 3 Having long hair did not mean anything much.
  - 4 They were old fashioned and backward.
  - (a) (1), (2)
  - (b) (2), (3)

- (c) (2), (4)
- (d) (1), (3)
- (iii) Select the option with correct opposite ideas that are explored in the given extract.
  - (a) long hair and short hair
  - (b) strength and submission
  - (c) freedom and oppression
  - (d) trials and rebellion
- (iv) Which word is the opposite of the word 'rebelled'?
  - (a) Obligated
  - (b) Revolted
  - (c) Despised
  - (d) Opposed

Q9 Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of them by answering the questions: (6)

(A) I went to the pool when no one else was there. The place was quiet, the water was still, and the tiled bottom was as white and clean as a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others. I had not been there long when it came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old. He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling muscles. He yelled, "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?"

- (i) Choose the term that SUBSTITUTE the term 'bruiser' as given in the extract.
  - (a) charmer
  - (b) exciter
  - (c) aggressor
  - (d) enthusiast
- (ii) The 'bruiser' was ..... years old.
- (iii) Select a reason why the narrator sat on the edge of the pool.
  - (a) because he was afraid entering pool alone.
  - (b) because he was waiting for the bruiser.
  - (c) because he was waiting for her mother to come.
  - (d) because he did not know how to enter the pool.
- (iv) Identify the state of the pool when the narrator went there.
- (v) What activity of the boy led Douglas to panic?
  - (a) The boy picked up Douglas and tossed him into the deep end.
  - (b) The boy helped Douglas to swim in the pool.
  - (c) The boy jumped into the pool alone.
  - (d) The boy gave Douglas instruction about how to swim.

(vi) What did the narrator mean by – ‘beautiful physical specimen’?

- (a) muscular body
- (b) thin body
- (c) fit body
- (d) skinny body

(B) Under an ancient arrangement the Champaran peasants were sharecroppers. Rajkumar Shukla was one of them. He was illiterate but resolute. He had come to the Congress session to complain about the injustice of the landlord system in Bihar, and somebody had probably said, “Speak to Gandhi.” Gandhi told Shukla he had an appointment in Cawnpore and was also committed to go to other parts of India.

Shukla accompanied him everywhere. Then Gandhi returned to his ashram near Ahmedabad. Shukla followed him to the ashram. For weeks he never left Gandhi’s side. “Fix a date,” he begged. Impressed by the sharecropper’s tenacity and story Gandhi said, “I have to be in Calcutta on such-and-such a date. Come and meet me and take me from there.”

(i) Identify a quality of Rajkumar Shukla evident from the given extract.

(ii) The extract has a word that was used in the old era. Identify it.

(iii) “Fix a date,” he begged. For what did Rajkumar Shukla wanted a ‘date’ from Gandhi?

- (a) To visit his house at Champaran as a guest.
- (b) To help his poor family.
- (c) To visit Champaran to help poor peasants.
- (d) To give him a job in his Ashram.

(iv) Why was Gandhi impressed by Rajkumar Shukla?

- (a) Due to his determination
- (b) Due to his personality
- (c) Due to his intelligence
- (d) Due to his strength

(v) Champaran peasants were sharecroppers. Here ‘sharecroppers’ means:

- (a) farmers who owned shares
- (b) farm workers
- (c) land-owning farmers
- (d) tenant farmers who must pay rent

(vi) Complete the given sentence.

‘Rajkumar Shukla was illiterate but resolute.’ The underlined word can be replaced by the word:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| (a) uncertain    | (b) determined |
| (c) half-hearted | (d) wise       |

Q10 Attempt ANY FIVE of the questions given below in 40-50 words each.

(5 x 2 = 10)

- (i) What is Umberto Eco's concept of 'interstices'? Explain how he uses them.
- (ii) Did Geoff believe Sophie's story of meeting Danny Casey?
- (iii) The peddler signed himself as 'Captain von Stahle'. Identify the reason behind peddler's decision with respect to the context.
- (iv) What was the reason behind Gandhiji's agreement to the planters' offer of a 25 percent refund to the farmers?
- (v) Life provides many charms yet it too causes suffering and pain'. Expound with reference to the statement based on your reading of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'.
- (vi) How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tiger's attitudes?

Q11 Attempt ANY TWO of the questions given below, in 40-50 words each.

(2 x 2 = 4)

- (i) Mr. Lamb told Derry the story of a man who hid himself in his room. Why did the man do so and with what result? State rationally.
- (ii) Who spread the rumour of the fabled speaking ten-day-old infant, the future Tiger King?
- (iii) Zitkala-Sa got terrified when Judewin told her that her hair would be shingled. Comment.

Q12 Answer ANY ONE of the questions given below. (5)

(A) 'Lost Spring' explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Elaborate.

(B) Imagine Sophie meets Danny Casey after several years. Write a dialogue exchange between them where Sophie explains what that meeting means to her.

Q13 Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (5)

(A) Flash fiction is a fictional work of extreme brevity. Imagine that you are a flash fiction writer. Write a piece of flash fiction involving the author's journey to the Antarctic aboard a Russian research vessel.

(B) Both Derry and Mr. Lamb was differently-abled people and yet they differed in their perceptions and attitudes. What according to you could be the reason for their different opinions on their disabilities?