

**RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL, BANGALORE**  
**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATIONS: 2023-24**  
**CLASS: XII**  
**ENGLISH**  
**(CORE COURSE: CODE 301)**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**SET - V**

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time 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. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

22 MARKS

Q1 Read the passage given below and attempt the questions that follow.

1. The children probably don't know, or they don't care, the hugely popular WWF wrestling matches are actually all staged acts. The Hulks, the Undertaker or whatever else they are called never really punch or kick as hard as they might appear doing on the show. It's all a show - a thrilling show.
2. So, you can't really blame children for getting hooked. But does that necessarily mean the show is entirely responsible for the beating that 12-year-old Subin Kumar got from his WWF inspired friends? Can viewing or watching violence on TV actually promote aggressive behaviour in children?
3. Media experts and social scientists have been wrestling with this question for decades and thousands of studies have been done on it. And most of them reached the same conclusion: media violence is responsible for aggressive behaviour in children.
4. Research has found that the more violence children watch on television, the more likely they may act in aggressive ways towards others. Also, they become less sensitive to others' pain and are less likely to help a victim of violence.
5. A study of violence on Indian television and its impact on children commissioned by UNESCO accused the idiot box of "bombarding young minds with all kinds of violent images, cutting across channels, programmes and viewing times."
6. Not only studies, but also incidents go to prove that children who watch violent episodes show increased likelihood of behaving aggressively.

7. There have been reports from all over the country of children hurting themselves while trying to ape the superman feats of Shaktiman, the superhero of Indian TV. Then there was the six-year-old child of Lucknow who leapt off the balcony of his second floor flat trying to imitate a bungee jumping drop shown in a soft drinks commercial.

8. There's no doubt that media is a powerful teacher and contributes greatly to the way we act and behave. In some cases like these, the effects are immediate and in others there is a "sleeper effect", where the results show up much later.

9. Experts say it's incorrect to blame the media squarely. How would you explain the aggressive behaviour of a child who has never been exposed to television or any other media? So, while there is mounting evidence to link media violence and actual violence, most of it does not prove a direct cause-and-effect relationship. Because no one so far has been able to prove why and how TV affects some people and not the others. "We also have to take into account individual differences and vulnerabilities as human behavior is result of many factors," points out Dr. Vasantha R. Patri, a counsellor, adding, "Violence viewing is only one of the myriad influences on a growing child."

10. Patri says there exists a population of risk individuals whose anger, aggression and antisocial tendencies are already quite high for whatever reason. Other factors like individual predisposition of the child, parental attitudes and reaction to aggression are probably equally important. In fact, she says that in most cases media is only the fourth most important influence in child's life-with parents, teachers and peers being the first three.

11. Patri points out that the growing "here-and-now" culture in which kids are getting used to immediate gratification is leading to an intolerant society on the whole. "Children are not taught how to handle failure and conflict," she says. "As a result, they resort to aggression."

12. But media critics refuse to buy it. They insist the content of media needs to be monitored and care be taken to reduce violence if not remove it. But even if all the gore and violence is completely removed from the media, will it make a significant difference in aggressive behaviour of children? And then how do you justify the facts that studies have shown that viewing violence on TV also provides an opportunity to discharge the pent-up, aggressive feelings of anger, hostility and frustration.

13. "The problem is not with the media, but the lack of media education," points out Patri. "No one teaches the children how to assess the reality status of TV programmes." Good parenting, she says, is perhaps the greatest defence against the negative effects of violent images on TV.

14. Experts say it's time that parents and teachers took a long, hard look at themselves in the mirror. Says Patri, "Most parents treat TV as a baby-sitter when it suits them. And when something goes wrong, they turn around and blame TV for it!"

Q Based on your comprehension of the passage, answer the questions given below:

(12)

- (i) Media experts and social scientists believe that
- (a) media violence is not responsible for aggressive behavior in children
  - (b) media violence is actually responsible for aggressive behavior in children
  - (c) WWF wrestling matches are actually stage shows
  - (d) WWF wrestling matches are responsible for aggressive behavior in children
- (ii) The more violence children watch on television
- (a) the more likely they are to help a victim of violence
  - (b) the more likely they become sensitive to others' pain
  - (c) the less likely they act in aggressive ways towards others
  - (d) the less sensitive they become to others' pain
- (iii) What does the 'sleeper effect' mentioned in para 8 refers to?
- (iv) It is difficult to prove a direct cause-and-effect relationship between aggressive behavior and media violence because;
- (a) media do not affect human behavior
  - (b) there is enough evidence to link media violence and actual violence
  - (c) individual differences and vulnerabilities matter much
  - (d) media violence is the only influence on a growing child
- (v) The four most important influence in a child's life in the correct order are
- (a) media peers parents teachers
  - (b) teachers parents peers media
  - (c) parents teachers peers media
  - (d) peers parents teachers media
- (vi) What is meant by 'here and now' culture?
- (vii) Children resort to aggression because
- (a) they are frustrated and angry
  - (b) they are exposed to a lot of media violence
  - (c) they have not been taught how to handle failure and conflict
  - (d) parental attitudes influence them

- (viii) 'Good parenting is the greatest defence against the negative effects of violence on TV.' Give one instance of good parenting as mentioned in the passage.
- (ix) Parents consider TV a babysitter. What does the author mean?
- (x) Who can best handle aggressive behaviour in children?
- (xi) 'The problem is not the media, but the lack of media education.' What does the author mean?
- (xii) Mention one positive impact of viewing violence as per media promoters?

Q2 Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow:

1 In spite of all the honours heaped upon him, Louis Pasteur remained simple at heart. Perhaps the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace, and the longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him. In truth he did become a great artist, though after his sixteenth year, he abandoned the brush forever. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For, to him, each sufferer was something more than just a case to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win. The sight of suffering children, particularly, moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in that suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to his estate where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, practising the Christian virtues.

2 "He revered the faith of his fathers," says the same writer, "and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period."

3 The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: "The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant."

4 But even when in retirement, he loved to see his former pupils, and it was then he would reiterate his life principles: "Work," he would say, "never cease to work." So well had he kept this precept that he began rapidly to sink from exhaustion.

5 Finally on September 27, 1895, when someone leant over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly, "I cannot," and with a look of perfect resignation and peace, seemed to fall asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and sufferings of a world which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday.

6 Thus passed away, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote at a plebiscite, many years later, as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth.

7 No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

Q Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below in a sentence or two:

(10)

(i) Accolades and honours did not change Pasteur. What kind of a man did he remain ?

(ii) In what way was he like an artist of worth?

(iii) How did Pasteur view those who suffered from diseases, especially hydrophobia ?

(iv) What was his attitude towards the fight against hydrophobia?

(v) What grieved Pasteur ?

(vi) How did Pasteur engage himself in the estate ?

(vii) What was the source of Pasteur's faith?

(viii) What advice did he always give to his pupils ?

(ix) How did France, the country of his birth, honour this great scientist?

(x) Which word in the passage means 'display (of wealth, learning etc) to obtain admiration.'

## SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18 MARKS

Q3 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (4)

A You are Rueben, President of the Wellness Cell of your school. You decide to organise a workshop, to raise awareness of the importance of mental health. This workshop would be conducted by the school counsellor. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of class XI-XII about the workshop.

B As the Vice Principal of your School, write a notice informing the students of classes XI and XII about the change in an excursion-cum-study tour to a place of historical importance.

Q4 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (4)

A You are Dr. Stanzin, a certified art therapist from Leh. You have been invited by G. D Public School, Jammu, to conduct a seminar for students on 'Art Therapy - the Way Forward'. This seminar is to introduce students to the usefulness of art in dealing with personal and social problems. Write your reply, in about 50 words accepting the invitation.

B You are Raja of R-201, Fort Road, Chennai. You have just purchased a new house. You decide to have a house-warming ceremony and invite your cousin Balaji. Write the invitation in 50 words giving all necessary details.

Q5 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (5)

A You are Krushna Mohanty, residing in Subhadra Apartments, Bhuvneshwar, Orissa. You have observed, with increasing concern, that garbage collection continues to be done without segregation in your neighbourhood. Write a letter to the editor of The Real Times, Bhuvneshwar, in about 120- 150 words, explaining your concern along with the rationale behind the importance of garbage segregation. Suggest ways in which the Residents Welfare Associations can participate in this program.

B You are Ajoy Sarkar of 83, Model Town, Guwahati, Assam. You are a human behavior enthusiast. You possess a degree in Psychological Counselling. Rangshala School, Guwahati, has advertised the requirement of a Counsellor, in the Guwahati Times. You are excited and decide to apply for the post. Write a letter in 100-120 words, responding to the given advertisement, submitting your candidature with a detailed bio-data.

Q6 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (5)

A While reading about new places and searching for them online has its merits, the advantages of actually travelling to various destinations far exceed them. Write an article in 120-150 words for the magazine Travel Times, evaluating both these options. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Amrit.

- Builds confidence
- Make friends and memories
- Experience new cultures
- Expands knowledge

B Ranikhet district, Uttarakhand, on the occasion of BasantPanchami celebrations had organized a three-day cultural festival. You are Bhupinder/ PriyankaBhisht. Your newspaper had deputed you to cover the inaugural event of this festival. As a newspaper reporter, use the given cues along with your own ideas to write a report about the same in 120-150 words.

- Big crowds -main grounds of the marketplace
- Colourful decorations
- Inauguration-local panchayat member to inaugurate.
- Folk dance and songs
- Speeches

## SECTION C LITERATURE TEXTBOOKS

40 MARKS

Q7 Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given: (6)

(A) “On sour cream walls, donations. Shakespeare’s head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilised dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map  
Awarding the world its world. And yet, for these  
Children, these windows, not this map, their world,  
Where all their future’s painted with a fog,  
A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky  
Far far from rivers, capes, and stars of words.”

(i) What does the expression - sour cream walls – suggest?

- (a) Display of donated artefacts on the walls.
- (b) Badly maintained walls.
- (c) Wall-to wall furniture.
- (d) A poor choice of paint for walls.

(ii) The map of the world in the classroom symbolizes

- (a) hopes and aspirations of the children.
- (b) travel plans of the school authorities.
- (c) a world that is unconnected to the children.
- (d) interconnectivity within the world.

(iii) ‘these windows, not this map, their world’ suggests that

- (a) this is the version of the world provided to the students.
- (b) this version of the world so provided doesn’t match the world they actually live in.
- (c) this version of the world so provided matches perfectly with the world they actually live in.
- (d) the honest portrayal of their real world is presented by the windows of the classroom

(iv) The expression, ‘Shakespeare’s head’ is an example of

- (a) pun                      (b) satire
- (c) parody                 (d) irony

(v) In the extract, ‘future’s painted with a fog’ suggests that the

- (a) classroom is as foggy as the paint on the walls.
- (b) beautiful valleys are not a part of the children’s future.
- (c) life ahead for the slum children is as unclear and hazy as fog.
- (d) fog often finds itself in the classrooms through broken windows.

- (vi) The phrase 'a narrow street' symbolizes
- (a) the narrow prospects the children have
  - (b) the dirty, grim world they live in
  - (c) pollution caused by industrialisation.
  - (d) the day-to-day hardship they have to endure.
- (B) "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) The phrase "every morrow" means
- (a) every afternoon
  - (b) every new unborn day (tomorrow)
  - (c) every today
  - (d) every yesterday
- (ii) The 'flowery band'
- (a) represents a place of comfort
  - (b) the beauty of the world
  - (c) youth and health
  - (d) holds us in the beauty that surrounds us
- (iii) The literary device used by the poet in the following lines is: "are we wreathing /A  
flowery band to bind us to the earth."
- (a) simile
  - (b) personification
  - (c) alliteration
  - (d) metaphor
- (iv) The lines: " Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways/ Made for our searching"  
speak about our own
- (a) goodness that makes us strong to fight any circumstance we are in
  - (b) strengths that can comfort us in every moment of time



- (c) carelessness that cause us to ignore all suffering and pain
  - (d) imperfections and shortcomings that make us gloomy and sad
- (v) The 'pall' here is
- (a) a dark, heavy covering
  - (b) a cloth spread over a coffin
  - (c) a feeling of gloom and fear
  - (d) an uninteresting thing
- (vi) The rhyme scheme of the given lines are:
- (a) aabccddee
  - (b) abbccdde
  - (c) abbcddde
  - (d) aabccdde

Q8 Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given: (6)

(A) "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. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents that become transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more."

- (i) 'Food is more important for survival than an identity.' Here, 'identity' refers to
- (a) citizenship
  - (b) recognition
  - (c) ration
  - (d) an official means of proving who one is
- (ii) The phrase 'transit homes' refer to the dwellings that are
- (a) unhygienic
  - (b) inadequate.
  - (c) fragile
  - (d) temporary.
- (iii) 'Children become partners in survival' means
- (a) they only survive
  - (b) they do not go to school
  - (c) they carry on the family's means of survival
  - (d) they have nothing to do

- (iv) Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence "Garbage to them is gold".
- (a) hyperbole                      (b) simile  
(c) synecdoche                    (d) personification
- (v) Choose the term which best matches the statement 'Food is more important for survival than an identity.'?
- (a) immorality                      (b) necessity  
(c) obligation                      (d) ambition
- (vi) What does 'acquired the proportions of a fine art' mean?
- (a) Rag-picking has regained its lost status.  
(b) A segment of rag pickers are skilled in fine arts.  
(c) Rag-picking has attained the position of a skill.  
(d) Only a few people are experts in rag-picking.

OR

(B) "She has not enjoyed even one full meal in her entire lifetime -that's what she has reaped! Her husband, an old man with a flowing beard, says, "I know nothing except bangles. All I have done is make a house for the family to live in." Hearing him, one wonders if he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime. He has a roof over his head! The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of their elders. Little has moved with time, it seems, in Firozabad. Years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream."

- (i) The phrase ' mind-numbing toil' refers to toil that is
- (a) very interesting and inspiring  
(b) extremely boring and tedious  
(c) very easy and convenient  
(d) extremely annoying and worrying
- (ii) The sentence " I know nothing except bangles." conveys the speaker's
- (a) pride in bangle making  
(b) optimism in bangle making  
(c) helplessness that he knows nothing else except bangle making  
(d) confidence in his art of bangle making

- (iii) 'he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime.' What is it?
- (a) getting his children educated
  - (b) making a house for the family to live in
  - (c) learning the art of making bangles
  - (d) organizing a co-operative
- (iv) Choose the word which best matches the statement "All I have done is make a house for the family to live in."
- (a) food
  - (b) clothing
  - (c) comfort
  - (d) shelter
- (v) What does 'echo the lament of their elders' mean?
- (a) express the same grief as their elders
  - (b) imitate the cry of their elders
  - (c) weep like their elders
  - (d) blame their situation on their elders
- (vi) 'mind-numbing toil' here means
- (a) hard work of making bangles
  - (b) extraordinary work
  - (c) harsh work that destroys the ability to feel or think
  - (d) exploitation

Q9 Attempt ANY ONE of the following extracts: (4)

(A) "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."

"You are a good man," the General murmured and closed his eyes. "You will be rewarded."

But Sadao, searching the spot of black in the twilighted sea that night, had his reward. There was no prick of light in the dusk. No one was on the island.

- (i) 'have someone in the palm of one's hand' means:
- (a) have complete power or control over him
  - (b) persuade someone to accept something by lying to him
  - (c) cheat someone

- (d) pretend to be what one is not
- (ii) Sadao was safe and would not be arrested because
  - (a) the old General needed his help
  - (b) the General would protect him
  - (c) the General was too weak to cause him any harm
  - (d) the General would help him
- (iii) What was it that compromised the General's position?
  - (a) he suffered a massive heart attack
  - (b) he did not send Sadao abroad with the troops
  - (c) he promised to get the enemy sailor killed but did not do it
  - (d) he ignored the presence of the enemy sailor
- (iv) Sadao had his reward. What was it?
  - (a) he was given a pay rise and promotion
  - (b) the American sailor had been caught again
  - (c) the American sailor had escaped safely
  - (d) the American sailor was killed by the General's assassins

(B) 'Nine time zones, six checkpoints, three bodies of water and many ecospheres later, I was still wondering about the beauty of balance in play on our planet. How would it be if Antarctica were to become the warm place that it once used to be? Will we be around to see it, or would we have gone the way of the dinosaurs, mammoths and woolly rhinos? Who's to say? But after spending two weeks with a bunch of teenagers who still have the idealism to save the world, all I can say is that a lot can happen in a million years, but what a difference a day makes!'

- (i) 'I was still wondering about the beauty of balance in play on our planet.' The literary device used here by the author is
  - (a) simile
  - (b) metaphor
  - (c) irony
  - (d) allegory
- (ii) 'After spending two weeks with a bunch of teenagers who still have the idealism to save the world.' This means that the author expects that the teenagers
  - (a) would save the world
  - (b) can ruin the world
  - (c) are the future of the world

- (d) will not rise to the occasion
- (iii) 'All I can say is that a lot can happen in a million years.' This means
- (a) nobody can predict what will happen tomorrow.
  - (b) the author wonders what will happen in a million years' time
  - (c) what we today will impact the world for a million years
  - (d) the world's geological history has changed over millions of years
- (iv) 'What a difference a day makes!' The author means that
- (a) one single day's experience can have life changing impact
  - (b) one day's experience is not important
  - (c) it takes time to understand the importance of something
  - (d) one day's experience should not be considered

Q10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each: (5x2=10)

- (i) What does Neruda mean by 'an exotic moment without rush' in his poem, 'Keeping Quiet'?
- (ii) Explain the metaphor of the rattrap in context of the story by Selma Lagerlöf.
- (iii) Kamala Das speaks of 'an old familiar ache...' What do you think is the reason for this feeling?
- (iv) Comment on the significance of the villagers sitting at the back in M. Hamel's classroom.
- (v) 'Little has moved with time, it seems, in Firozabad.' State any one reason why the writer says this.
- (vi) How does the poet use the image of 'fingers fluttering through the wool' to highlight Aunt Jennifer's victimization?

Q11 Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each: (2x2=4)

- (i) In his letter to Charley, Sam writes, '...then I got to believing you were right.' What did Sam begin to believe?
- (ii) It was important that the recaptured Evans keep up the façade till the very last moment of his interaction with the Governor. Support this statement with a rationale.
- (iii) Sadao had put the American sailor firmly on the path of recovery. Why, then, did he accept the General's plan to assassinate him?

Q12 Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words: (5)

(A) The story Deep Water talks about Douglas' attempts to overcome his fear of water. The story can also be viewed as a figurative manifestation of life's many challenges. Elaborate with reference to the text.

(B) How does the story, 'Rattrap' highlight the importance of community over isolation? Support your rationale with textual evidence.

Q13 Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words: (5)

(A) Compare and contrast the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry.

(B) Write about the commonality of theme in the experiences of Bama and Zitkala-Sa.