

CLASS: XII
MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24
SUBJECT: ENGLISH (CORE)
SET- B2

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are **compulsory**.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – Reading

22

I. Read the passage given below:

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1. People, being what they are, get practical about creating their own currency as long as it is honoured. In Africa, sea shells were used until the 19th century as money. Gold practically useless, but known for its short supply and lasting quality, has been the most popular non-currency form of money and is a standard for central banks.
2. Now in the age of the internet and digital technologies, money is undergoing an exciting makeover with talk of virtual currencies, mobile wallets and software apps that pretty much do what gold has been doing for centuries and currency notes have been doing for a while. Technologies such as near-field communications are being used to make the mobile phone an instrument of payment without the customer having to sign a credit card voucher, thus making it more secure.
3. Software apps are generally being developed to substitute for money in various ways. Some companies like Starbucks allow ‘digital tipping’ of its baristas through a mobile app. Pre-paid cash cards are used as swipe instruments where customers do not need credit cards or bank accounts. The NextGen ATM machines will recognize your face through facial biometric technologies.
4. Bitcoin, the most popular virtual currency, started circulating in 2009. Its current market value has been estimated at around \$8 billion, with about 80,000 transactions occurring daily, according to reputable accounting firms. However, Washington’s Internal Revenue Service ruled that Bitcoin is not a currency but more like property — and thus subject to capital gains tax.
5. Meanwhile other virtual currencies are taking off — and influencing politics. In Iceland, which saw its banking system more or less wiped out, during the 2008 global financial crisis, there emerged the euro coin, a new currency, now estimated to be worth \$11.37 billion. This currency is aimed at fighting capital controls imposed by the Iceland government.
6. Crypto currencies are a very important milestone in this fight for liberty from political control. They bring the hope of a new era of free currencies immune to the meddling of politicians.

7. In addition, money is undergoing an exciting makeover through innovations galore. Telecom companies the world over, for instance, with support from their central banks are offering customers ‘mobile money’ as a service. Another innovation that is much talked about is the mobile wallet and companies are helping their customers carry the equivalent of cash in their handsets much like one carries a traveller’s cheque.
8. Thus more and more practical solutions are being spawned across the planet to focus not so much on money’s ‘store of value’ but as a medium of exchange.

1. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- i.** Select the most appropriate option that justifies the statement– **(1)**

With mobile phone as an instrument of payment, paying bills has become more secure.

- (a) Credit Card is the only practical mode of payment.
- (b) Everyone in India is computer and internet literate.
- (c) Digital learning in money is making transactions less fraudulent.
- (d) Gold is the best mode of payment.

- ii.** What is the offer being made by telecom companies? **(1)**

- (a) They are not offering mobile money.
- (b) They are offering support from their respective central banks.
- (c) They are offering mobile money which has the support of their central banks.
- (d) They are offering central banking services.

- iii.** How do we know that age of the internet and digital technologies has transformed the use of money? (40 words) **(2)**

- iv.** Complete the sentence based on your understanding of the passage. **(1)**

Bitcoin is not a currency because the Internal revenue service, Washington, rules that ____.

- v.** Select the most appropriate option to complete the sentence. **(1)**

Central banks are encouraging their customers to switch to mobile wallets because ____.

- (a) it is equal to travellers’ cheques
- (b) it allows travellers to carry cash in the same manner as travellers’ cheques
- (c) it is an exchange in the form of travellers’ cheques
- (d) it is a handset built for carrying money.

- vi.** State, in about 40 words, different types of software mentioned in the above passage, that can substitute for money. **(2)**

- vii.** Identify the word in **para 4** that means the same as – ‘trustworthy and honourable’ **(1)**

- viii.** What does the writer mean by freedom for cryptocurrencies? (40 words) **(2)**

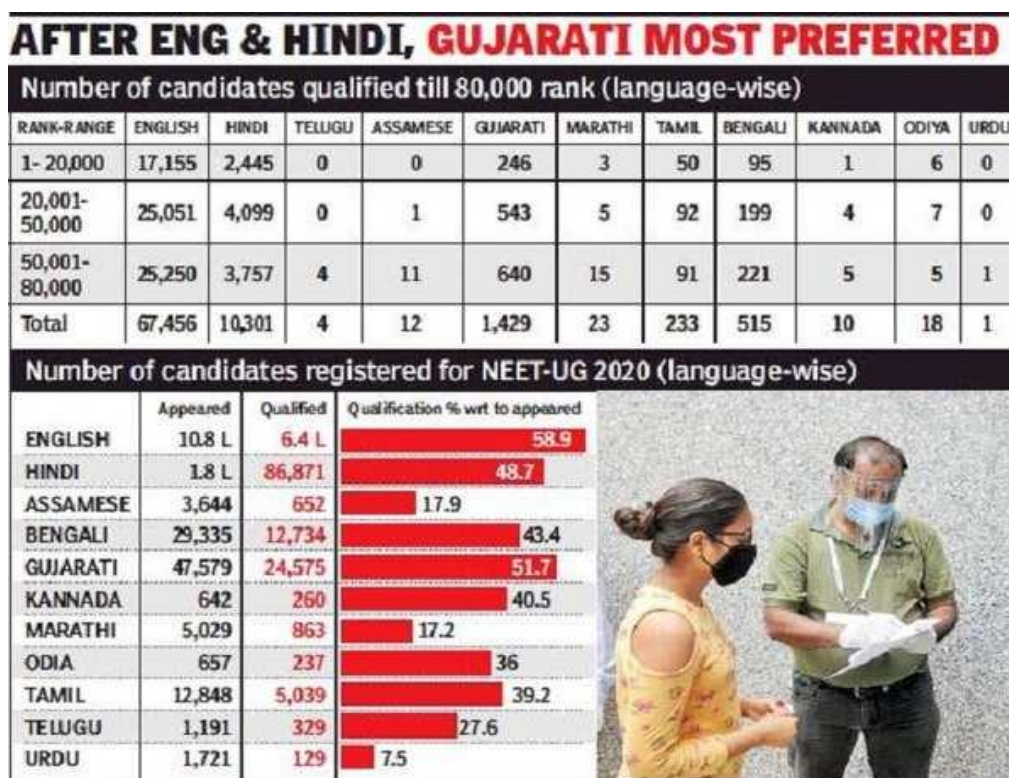
- ix.** Select the option that summarises the impact of virtual currency across the globe: **(1)**

- (a) They are taking off and influencing politics
- (b) They are bringing in the era of free currency
- (c) They are innovative and exciting
- (d) All of the above

2. Read the passage given below.

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- While the Centre plans to offer JEE (Main) in regional languages too, results of NEET-UG 2020 reveal that of the nearly 7.7 lakh candidates who qualified, over 1.3 lakhs took the test in 10 Indian languages, with 25,701 such students among the top 1 lakh.
- The healthy percentage of successful students in various languages shows that domain knowledge is not limited to those fluent in English. However, such students often face a major language hurdle as technical lessons are imparted in English. They should be given free English tuition to enable them to keep pace with the course. Efforts can also be made to publish technical books in other Indian languages.
- Apart from English, NEET-UG is offered in 10 Indian languages—Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. Experts say if these exams had not been conducted in regional languages, many candidates would have struggled to qualify as they may not have been comfortable in English.



- Welcoming the plans to offer JEE (Main) in regional languages, experts said this would help candidates who study in vernacular language at the senior secondary level. Educationist and CBSE ex-chief Ashok Ganguly said since admission to engineering colleges is based on one exam, students in vernacular medium shouldn't be deprived of a level-playing field.

5. “But these students will definitely find it difficult to appear in JEE (Advanced). It would be better to fix some state quotas for colleges like NITs and have their exam held separately with the option to appear in regional languages but for the national quota, the medium should only be English. In any case, a student from the vernacular medium will find it difficult to continue in IIT. So JEE (Advanced) must be continued in English medium.”

2. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- i. Do you think that a good percentage of successful students in vernacular languages proves that it is beneficial for the candidates appearing for entrance exams? Support your answer with reference to the text. (2)
- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for the students doing better in the vernacular medium in NEET exams according to the 2020 study. (1)

- (a) NEET-UG is offered primarily in English.
(b) NEET-UG is offered in ten Indian languages.
(c) Many students are not comfortable with English.
(d) After English, Hindi, Gujarati and Bengali are the most preferred languages.

- iii. The qualification percentage of students who appeared in Hindi in NEET 2020 is..... (1)

- iv. Complete the sentence based on the following statements. (1)

To encourage students’ participation in NEET-UG through regional languages, it is suggested that _____.

1. English should be abolished in NEET as a medium.
2. Efforts should be made to publish technical books in regional languages.
3. The regional candidates should be trained separately for the entrance exam.
4. The regional candidates should be given free English tuition.

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

- v. In the concluding sentence, in paragraph 4, the author talks of a ‘*level-playing field.*’ (1)

Select the most appropriate option that explains the meaning of the same:

- (a) collaboration amongst all.
(b) equal opportunities for all.
(c) regional medium for all.
(d) international medium for all.

- vi. The writer states-- But these students will definitely find it difficult to appear in JEE (Advanced) and thereafter. Give reasons to support the given statement. (2)

- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

Two vernacular languages in which the candidates qualify the least are _____.

- viii. As per the information in **paragraph 1**, state if the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. (1)

The writer believes that the government is not on the right track in offering the medium of vernacular languages in engineering entrance exams.

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

(4)

A. You are Sagar Sharma, the President of Youth Club, Delhi International School. You have planned to take a trekking trip for 15 days to Rohtang Pass next month. Write a Notice inviting club members to the trekking programme. Give all the necessary details.

OR

B. You are Sanjeev Verma, the president of the Malviya Nagar Residents Welfare Association, Block A. You are organising a 'New Year Party' in your area. Draft a notice informing the residents of your block about the same. Give all the necessary details.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

(4)

A. You are the Head Girl of Mata Gujri Devi School. The school is holding its Investiture Ceremony on 28 September 2023. Draft a formal invitation on behalf of the Principal, inviting the parents to attend the ceremony. Give all necessary information.

OR

B. You are Abhinav Mandal, the captain of the school cricket team. You have received an invitation from the St. Agnus Public School, Pune to play a friendly cricket match at their playground. Respond to this invitation with a positive reply.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

(5)

The influence of friends can have both positive and negative impacts on the students. Using the cues given below, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, discussing how we can make peer influence more constructive and fruitful. You are Palak/ Priyank Rai, residing at A-37, Glory Apartments, Noida.

Pros-

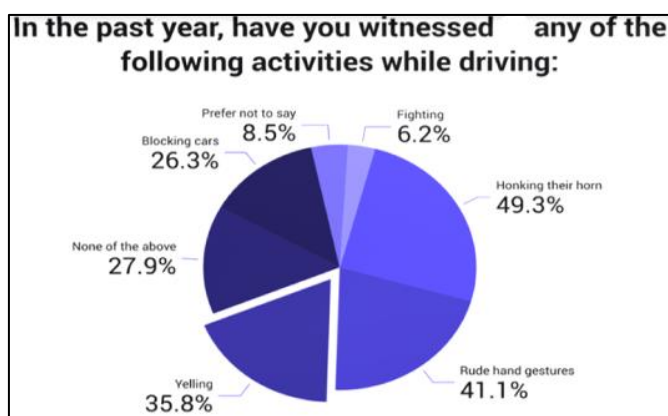
- Companion for life
- Sole support during adverse circumstances
- Boost Confidence and create a healthy environment

Cons-

- Can make everything appear negative
- Self-esteem affected
- Pressurises you to do things against your parent's will/culture

OR

You are perturbed to read about the rising cases of road rage in the National Capital. People become so aggressive and violent that an argument results in injuries or in some extreme cases, even death. Write a letter to the Editor of Hindustan Times to make the public aware of the need to curb such behaviour and to make roads safer for the people. You are Anvita/Anmol, a resident of Ashok Nagar, New Delhi.



Ways to Avoid Road Rage

- # Remove yourself from the situation
- # Ignore if they're being rude
- # Call for help if necessary
- # Apologize after a mistake

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

(5)

A. A healthy environment is the utmost necessity of our life and the use of plastic bags certainly affects the quality of our life. Write an article on ‘*Plastic Bags--- a Curse of Modern Life*’ to be published in a magazine. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Raghav/ Rekha, a Social Activist.

- **Plastic bags—a threat to environment**
- **Most adverse effect on our health**
- **Cause of diseases/asthma/cancer, etc.**
- **Suggestions to remove plastic bags from our life**

OR

B. Your school organized a marathon to create awareness about pollution. Mentioning the number of participating cyclists carrying the placards and the details of the rally from the starting point to the end, write a report to be published in the school magazine. You are Ashnit/ Ashna the Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. You may use the given cues:

- Date and Location
- Partnership with environmental NGOs
- Impact of your event
- Coverage by News Reporters
- Presence of medical support, security personnel
- Volunteers’ assistance
- Young children pledged to save Earth

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

(6)

A.

*Those who prepare green wars,
Wars with gas, wars with fire,
Victory with no survivors,
Would put on clean clothes
And walk about with their Brothers,
In the shade doing nothing. (Keeping Quiet)*

i. Which figure/s of speech is/are used in the fourth line of the given extract?

1. Simile
2. Hyperbole
3. Alliteration
4. Metaphor

Choose the most appropriate option.

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

ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following.

‘Those people who are involved in creating environmental conflicts’

iii. In the first three lines of the extract, the poet criticises..... kind of people.

- (a) Destructive
- (b) Valiant
- (c) Eco-friendly
- (d) Peaceful

iv. Complete the following analogy correctly.

A Thing of Beauty: John Keats :: Keeping Quiet : ____.

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to 1 and 2 given below.

1. *The poem calls for change as much in the individual as in human society at large.*
2. *'Green wars' means to be calm and to plant more trees.*

- (a) 1 is true but 2 is false. (b) 2 is true but 1 is false.
(c) 2 can be inferred from 1. (d) 2 is the reason of 1

vi. Fill in the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract.

The irony in '*...victory with no survivors*' is that if no one is left to enjoy the glory of triumph, the victory is rendered _____.

OR

B.

*And such too is the grandeur of the dooms,
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.* (A Thing of Beauty)

i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the second line of the extract.

- (a) O heavy lightness! Serious vanity! (b) As sly as a fox.
(c) Do good, have good. (d) Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

ii. What does the phrase 'the grandeur of the dooms' mean?

- (a) The glory and magnificence that the dead are entitled to due to their glorious deeds.
(b) Those who have performed good in every situation of life.
(c) Those who continue to live on among us through the stories and legends about their lives.
(d) Owing to the noble lives they have lived.

iii. 'Mighty dead' refers to men who have _____.

- (a) heard and read the tales of the mighty.
(b) died following powerful rulers.
(c) become immortals after drinking the heavenly drink.
(d) performed brave and noble deeds while they lived.

iv. Complete the sentence.

'*An endless fountain of immortal drink*' here refers to _____

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:

1. *The 'immortal drink' gives us immense joy and pleasure.*
2. *It also gives us immortality and power.*

- (a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
(b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
(c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract.
(d) 1 is the reason for 2 and can be inferred from the extract.

vi. Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

- (a) Tales of Heroism (b) Bounty of Beautiful Things
(c) Be Brave, Die Brave (d) Optimism Works

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two extracts given. (4)

A. *The Presidents of the New York Central and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment.*

i.“there are only two” ---What is referred to as ‘two’ in the above statement?

- (a) Towers (b) Blocks (c) Levels (d) Stations

ii. Why does the speaker contradict everyone about the levels at the Grand Central Station.?

- (a) He feels that he is in a waking dream.
(b) He is sure that there are only two levels at the Grand Central Station.
(c) He is sure that there are three levels at the Grand Central Station.
(d) He feels that he has never seen the third level.

iii. What did the speaker's psychiatrist friend say about his belief regarding the third level at Grand Central Station?

iv. According to the psychiatrist, _____ and _____ can be the reasons behind the speaker's belief and living a waking dream wish fulfilment.

1. Excitement to see the third level
2. Modern-day anxieties
3. Persistent requests from his wife
4. Stressful times

- (i) 1 and 4 (ii) 2 and 4
(iii) 1 and 2 (iv) 3 and 4

OR

B. *She crouched close to the sleeping face of the young American. It was a piteously thin face she thought, and the lips were twisted. The man was suffering whether he knew it or not. Watching him, she wondered if the stories they heard sometimes of the sufferings of prisoners were true. They came like flickers of rumour, told by word of mouth and always contradicted.*

i. The above extract has been taken from _____

ii. Which word in the above extract is the synonym of ‘confute’?

- (a) Twisted (b) contradict (c) Flicker (d) Rumour

iii. The speaker expresses her feelings about the prisoner in the above extract. She is seemingly - _____ and _____ by nature.

1. Sensitive
2. Compassionate
3. Frightened
4. Resentful

- (i) 2 and 4 (ii) only 2
(iii) 3 and 4 (iv) 1 and 2

iv. The wounded, who person came to the speaker's house belonged to _____.

- (a) the Japanese army (b) the Chinese force
(c) the British army (d) U.S. Navy

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two extracts given.

(6)

A. Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds---one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the sahumars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic" he repeats.

i. Who is being burdened under the baggage of two worlds?

- (a) The author (b) The middlemen
(c) A young man (d) The Sahukars

ii. The phrase 'stigma of caste' here refers to the _____.

- (a) grief-stricken life of the bangle makers.
(b) the untouchables living in Firozabad.
(c) poor families living in the slums.
(d) children unable to get proper food and clothes.

iii. Pick the option that means the same as 'vicious'.

- (a) Gentle (b) Accurate
(c) Ruthless (d) Humane

iv. Mukesh's dream, that he wanted to be a motor mechanic, suggests that _____.

- (a) he is passionate about driving.
(b) he is just like the other boys of Firozabad.
(c) he thinks differently than the members of his family.
(d) he has to work to earn his livelihood.

v. Who is the narrator of the given extract?

vi. What is meant by the word 'baggage' here?

OR

B. On Saturday they made their weekly pilgrimage to watch United. Sophie and her father and little Derek went down near the goal-Geoff as always, went with his mates higher up. United won two-nil and Casey drove in the second goal, a blend of innocence and Irish genies, going round the two big defenders on the edge of the penalty area, with her father screaming for him to pass, and beating the hesitant goalkeeper from dozen yards Sophie glowed with pride. Afterwards, Geoff was ecstatic.

i. Their visit to the match was like 'a weekly pilgrimage'. It refers to _____

- (a) strong bond as a family (b) love for a fixed routine.
(c) similar feelings of devotion (d) excitement for the match

ii. Based on the following statements, choose the correct option.

Assertion: "Geoff, as always, went with his mates higher up"

Reason 1: Geoff was not very close to his family and lived in his own world.

Reason 2: Geoff was rude and indifferent towards everyone around him and didn't care about anyone at all.

- (a) Reason 1 and Reason 2 both can be inferred from the assertion.
(b) Reason 1 can be inferred but Reason 2 cannot be inferred from the assertion.
(c) Reason 1 cannot be inferred but Reason 2 can be inferred
(d) Reason 1 and Reason 2 both cannot be inferred.

iii. Sophie glowed with pride. Her pride is the result of _____

- (a) belonging to a region where everyone thought of Danny as a hero.
- (b) watching her father cheer and support Danny
- (c) the information she gathered from her brother about Danny.
- (d) being an avid fan and her sense of closeness with Danny.

iv. Choose the option listing the situation in which one would be 'ecstatic' :

OPTION 1 Coming home and finding that there are 11 messages from your <u>Principal</u> in your email inbox.	OPTION 2 Going to an old age home and listening to them share stories from the past
OPTION 3 Going to a dog show and losing your pet there	OPTION 4 Being seated next to your favourite pop singer during a short flight there.

v. The match on Saturday was witnessed by:

- (a) the whole family
- (b) only Sophie and her father
- (c) Geoff alone.
- (d) Sophie, father, Derek and Geoff

vi. Name the author of the chapter, "Going Places".

- (a) Pearl S. Buck
- (b) William Douglas
- (c) Susan Hill
- (d) A.R. Barton

10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in about 40 to 50 words: **2x5=10**

- i. What are the different connotations of the word 'garbage' to the children and adult ragpickers of Seema Puri?
- ii. What was Douglas's initial reaction on being thrown into the pool? (*Deep Water*)
- iii. How did Gandhiji react after receiving the summons to appear in court the next day?
- iv. Analyse the emotional turmoil that Kamala Das goes through in the poem "My Mother at Sixty-six".
- v. Why have the rural poor built a road-side stand? Why are they disappointed?
- vi. Why was Rudyard Kipling strongly against the idea of getting interviewed? (*The Interview*)

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in about 40 to 50 words: **2x2=4**

- i. Why did Charley go to the ticket window? What happened at the window when he paid the money? (*The Third Level*)
- ii. Why did the Tiger King decide to get married?
- iii. Antarctica is unlike any other place on Earth. Justify the statement. (*Journey to the end of the Earth*)

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120 to 150 words:

5

- A. What order had been received from Berlin that day? What effect did it have on life at school in Alsace? Discuss with reference to 'The Last Lesson'.

OR

- B. 'The Rattrap' is a story of hope, which focuses on the need for compassion to resolve loneliness and change the lives of the less fortunate. Elucidate.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120 to 150 words:

5

- A. "The Maharaja's servants were obedient and sincere." Do you find them truly earnest towards him or are they driven by fear when they obey him? Elucidate with reference to the story 'The Tiger King'.

OR

- B. Dr. Sadao's actions in 'The Enemy' show him to be an individual who rises above the narrow prejudices of race and country. Justify.

.....X.....X.....X.....