

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi
PRACTICE PAPER (SESSION 2026 – 27)
CLASS XI
ENGLISH CORE (CODE: 301)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

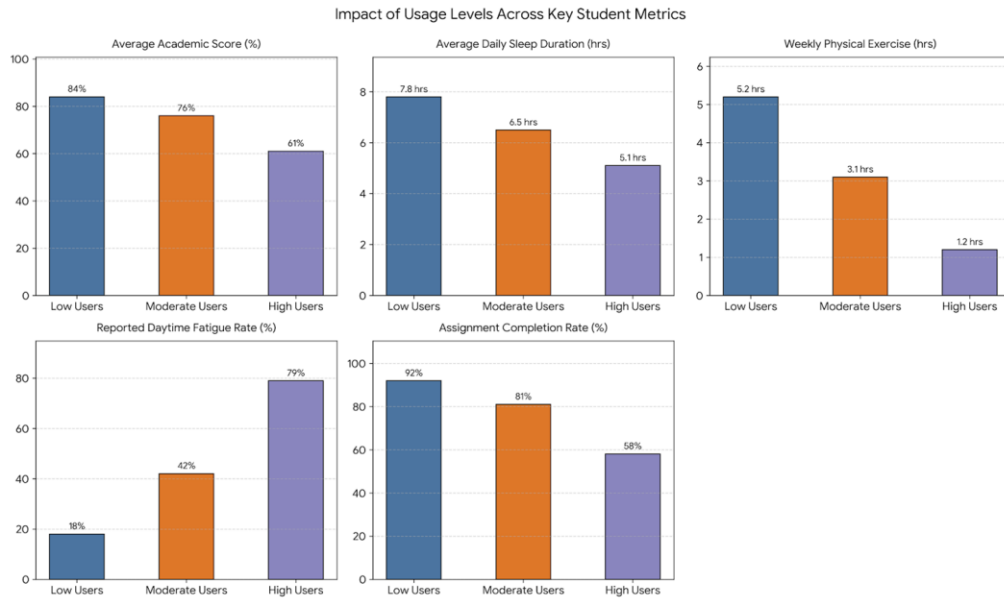
1. This paper is divided into three sections: **A**, **B**, and **C**.
 - **Section A:** Reading Skills (26 Marks)
 - **Section B:** Grammar & Creative Writing Skills (23 Marks)
 - **Section C:** Literature Text Book & Supplementary Reading Text (31 Marks)
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them.
4. Strictly adhere to the prescribed word limits.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (26 MARKS)

Q. No.	Question Details	Marks
1	Read the following passage carefully. 1. The practice of urban agriculture is rapidly transforming from a niche hobby into a vital cornerstone of modern sustainable city planning. As global urbanization accelerates at an unprecedented pace, cities across the world are facing severe, interconnected challenges, including food insecurity, expanding carbon footprints, and the dramatic loss of natural green spaces. In response, innovative strategies such as rooftop gardens, vertical hydro-farms, and municipal community plots are emerging as essential solutions to these pressing urban dilemmas. 2. Urban farming offers a wide array of environmental advantages. Vegetation introduced into dense concrete environments acts as a natural air filter, actively trapping airborne particulate matter and absorbing carbon dioxide. Furthermore, vegetated rooftops significantly reduce the "urban heat island" effect—a meteorological phenomenon where built-up city zones experience substantially higher temperatures than their surrounding rural areas due to heat absorption by pavement and concrete. By insulating structures, rooftop greenery lowers peak energy demands for artificial cooling, leading to a direct decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from urban power grids.	10 (1×6 + 2×2)

	3. Beyond its ecological benefits, urban agriculture plays a critical role in enhancing social cohesion and public psychological well-being. Neighborhood community gardens serve as inclusive, accessible hubs where individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds gather to cultivate food, foster intergenerational relationships, and exchange traditional ecological knowledge. Moreover, regular exposure to soil and greenery has been clinically proven to lower cortisol levels, reduce urban fatigue, and improve overall mental health outcomes among city residents who often feel disconnected from nature. 4. From an economic standpoint, localized food cultivation diminishes reliance on long-distance agricultural supply chains, cutting transport overheads and minimizing post-harvest food waste. Fresh produce harvested right within metropolitan boundaries retains higher nutritional value compared to crops that endure days of transit across national networks. While spatial constraints, soil contamination risks, and initial setup costs present persistent hurdles, progressive city councils are stepping in with targeted solutions. Municipal authorities are increasingly offering tax incentives, grant programs, and updated zoning regulations to encourage commercial and community-led urban farming initiatives. Ultimately, embedding agriculture within urban landscapes represents not merely a trend, but a necessary paradigm shift toward resilient city ecosystems. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions: (i) What primary environmental challenge mentioned in paragraph 2 does rooftop vegetation help mitigate? (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately: The phrase "urban heat island effect" refers to a condition where _____. (iii) According to paragraph 3, how does urban farming impact the mental health of city residents? (iv) Which of the following best summarizes the economic advantage of urban farming? a) It eliminates the need for organic fertilizers completely. b) It minimizes transportation costs and post-harvest food spoilage. c) It lowers land purchasing prices in dense commercial regions. d) It replaces traditional rural agriculture entirely.	
--	--	--

	(v) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE: <i>Freshly harvested urban produce generally retains fewer nutrients than food transported across long distances.</i> (vi) Find a word from paragraph 1 that means "a localized or specialized market/activity." (vii) Mention two policy measures that progressive city councils are implementing to support urban farming. (viii) Infer why community gardens are described as "inclusive neighborhood hubs."	
2	Read the following case-based passage carefully. 1. A comprehensive nationwide study was conducted across 600 secondary schools to analyze high school students' screen-time habits and their direct correlation with academic performance, physical activity, and sleep quality. The research aimed to assess how varying levels of daily recreational screen usage—including social media browsing, video streaming, and online gaming—impact overall adolescent development during crucial academic years. 2. The participating students were categorized into three distinct user profiles based on their reported daily recreational screen time: <i>Low Users</i> (under 2 hours per day), <i>Moderate Users</i> (2 to 4 hours per day), and <i>High Users</i> (exceeding 4 hours per day). The compiled data revealed significant variations in cognitive focus, physical health indicators, and academic outcomes across these groups. Performance & Health Indicators Data Table:	8 (1×5 + 3×1)



3. The empirical evidence points to a strong inverse relationship between excessive recreational screen consumption and academic achievement. Researchers noted that prolonged exposure to high-luminance screens late in the evening disrupts natural circadian rhythms by suppressing melatonin secretion, leading to severe sleep latency and reduced REM sleep stages. Consequently, students experiencing sleep deprivation demonstrate decreased attention spans during school hours, compromised short-term memory consolidation, and higher vulnerability to academic stress.

4. Furthermore, high screen consumption was linked to a sedentary lifestyle, with over 75% of high users failing to meet the minimum WHO-recommended weekly physical activity guidelines. Educational psychologists emphasized that while digital tools offer immense informational value, unstructured and unrestricted recreational screen usage severely erodes time management habits and self-regulatory skills necessary for academic success.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

(i) Based on the statistical data provided, what is the average academic score achieved by students categorized as *Low Users*?

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately: The percentage of students suffering from daytime fatigue in the *High Users* category is _____ % higher than in the *Low Users* category.

	(iii) Identify the physiological process mentioned in paragraph 3 that is disrupted by late-night screen usage. (iv) According to the data, how many hours of weekly physical exercise do <i>Moderate Users</i> average? (v) Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the survey data? a) Increased screen time leads to longer sleep duration and higher academic scores. b) There is a direct positive correlation between online gaming and assignment completion rates. c) Higher recreational screen time is associated with lower academic scores and reduced physical activity. d) Physical exercise levels remain completely unaffected by daily screen consumption habits. (vi) Explain in 20–30 words how late-night screen exposure directly affects a student's cognitive focus in school the following day.	
--	---	--

3	Read the following passage carefully. 1. Effective time management stands as an indispensable pillar for academic achievement and emotional stability during high school years. In an era dominated by constant digital connectivity and packed schedules, mastering the skill of organizing time enables students to fulfill their academic obligations without sacrificing health or recreational pursuits. Time management is not merely about completing assignments; it is about establishing a balanced lifestyle that fosters long-term productivity. 2. A widely celebrated framework for organizing priorities is the Eisenhower Matrix, which categorizes tasks into four distinct quadrants based on urgency and importance. Quadrant One contains tasks that are both urgent and important—such as upcoming exams or immediate project deadlines—which demand instant focus. Quadrant Two contains tasks that are important but not urgent, including long-term skill development, physical exercise, and consistent study revision. Successful individuals allocate the majority of their time to Quadrant Two to prevent crises before they arise. 3. Conversely, tasks that appear urgent but lack real importance should be minimized or delegated, while non-urgent, non-important activities should be eliminated entirely. Establishing habit loops also reinforces personal consistency. By creating designated study blocks, taking structured ten-minute breaks, and enforcing strict digital blackouts during revision hours, students develop sustainable routines. These practical habits safeguard against burnout, enhance concentration, and promote sustained academic performance over time. Questions: (a) Note-Making: On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) where necessary. Supply a suitable title. (b) Summary: Write a summary of the passage in up to 50 words based on your notes.	8 (5 + 3)
---	---	------------------

SECTION B: GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (23 MARKS)

Q. No.	Question Details	Marks
4	GRAMMAR: GAP FILLING (TENSES & CLAUSES) Fill in the blanks in the passage below with the most appropriate word/clause structure from the given options: By the time the annual science exhibition started, the team (i) _____ [a) finished / b) has finished / c) had finished / d) was finishing] their prototype. The principal commended the students (ii) _____ [a) who had spent / b) which were spent / c) whom spent / d) whose spend] weeks perfecting the design. She reminded the audience that continuous effort always yields success (iii) _____ [a) unless one gives up / b) as long as one stays dedicated / c) although it is difficult / d) before they realize]. The team captain stated that if they (iv) _____ [a) work / b) worked / c) had worked / d) will work] even harder next term, they would win the national championship easily.	4 (1×4)

5	GRAMMAR: RE-ORDERING & TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES Attempt ANY THREE of the following four tasks as directed: (i) Sentence Re-ordering: Rearrange the following jumbled words to form a coherent, grammatically correct sentence: <i>patience / skill / a / requires / learning / great / new / deal / of</i> (ii) Transformation (Passive Voice): Transform the following active sentence into passive voice without changing its meaning: <i>The committee has approved the new eco-club proposal.</i> (iii) Transformation (So...that / Too...to): Rewrite the sentence using 'too...to': <i>The luggage was so heavy that the porter could not carry it alone.</i> (iv) Sentence Re-ordering: Rearrange the following jumbled words to form a coherent, grammatically correct sentence: <i>environment / human / healthy / a / necessary / for / is / survival / clean</i>	3 (1×3)
---	--	------------------------------

6	SHORT WRITING TASK: Classified Advertisement (Max 50 words) Attempt ANY ONE of the two given options: (A) You are the Manager of Green Valley Public School, New Delhi. Draft a classified advertisement for the school bulletin board/newspaper under the column 'SITUATIONS VACANT' for an experienced PGT English Teacher. Mention qualifications, experience, and contact details. <i>(Format: 1 / Content: 1 / Expression: 1)</i> OR (B) You want to sell your two-year-old motor bicycle as you are moving abroad. Draft a classified advertisement under the column 'FOR SALE' giving relevant details like model, condition, mileage, and expected price. <i>(Format: 1 / Content: 1 / Expression: 1)</i>	3
7	SHORT WRITING TASK: Poster (Max 50 words) Attempt ANY ONE of the two given options: (A) Design an eye-catching poster on behalf of the Environment Club of your school to promote "Water Conservation" and raise awareness about rainwater harvesting. Include catchy slogans and visual cues. <i>(Format: 1 / Content: 1 / Expression: 1)</i> OR (B) Design a poster creating awareness about the harmful effects of junk food and promoting healthy eating habits among teenagers. <i>(Format: 1 / Content: 1 / Expression: 1)</i>	3

8	LONG WRITING TASK: Speech (120–150 words) Attempt ANY ONE of the two given options: (A) Today's youth are increasingly dependent on smart devices and screen-based entertainment. Write a speech to be delivered in the morning school assembly on the topic "Balancing Screen Time with Outdoor Activities." Highlight the physical, mental, and social benefits of outdoor recreation. (<i>Format: 1 / Content: 2 / Expression: 2</i>) OR (B) You are concerned about the rising levels of municipal waste in your city. Write a speech for the school assembly on "Waste Segregation at Source: A Path to Sustainability," detailing practical habits students can adopt at home and in school. (<i>Format: 1 / Content: 2 / Expression: 2</i>)	5
9	LONG WRITING TASK: Debate (120–150 words) Attempt ANY ONE of the two given options: (A) "Artificial Intelligence tools enhance learning outcomes and should be fully integrated into school curricula." Write a debate either FOR or AGAINST the motion, using valid arguments, logical reasoning, and relevant examples. (<i>Format: 1 / Content: 2 / Expression: 2</i>) OR (B) "Online learning platforms can completely replace traditional classroom schooling in the future." Write a debate either FOR or AGAINST the motion. (<i>Format: 1 / Content: 2 / Expression: 2</i>)	5

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK & SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (31 MARKS)

Q. No.	Question Details	Marks
--------	------------------	-------

10	Poetry Extract (Hornbill) Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given below: (A) (<i>Poem: A Photograph</i>) <i>"A sweet face, My mother's, that was before I was born. And the sea, which appears to have changed less, Washed their terribly transient feet."</i> 1. What does the expression "terribly transient feet" signify? 2. Which poetic device is used in "terribly transient"? 3. How does the sea contrast with human life in these lines? OR (B) (<i>Poem: The Laburnum Top</i>) <i>"Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt, She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up Of chatterings, and a tremor of wings, and trillings— The whole tree trembles and thrills."</i> 1. Who is "she" in the given extract, and to what is she compared? 2. What causes the "machine" to start up inside the tree? 3. Identify the literary device used in "sleek as a lizard."	3 (1×3)
----	---	------------------------------

11	Prose Extract (Hornbill) Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given below: (A) (<i>Prose: The Portrait of a Lady</i>) <i>"My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school."</i> 1. Where did the narrator's parents go, leaving him with his grandmother? 2. Describe the bond between the narrator and his grandmother during their early village life. 3. Name the author of this lesson. OR (B) (<i>Prose: We're Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All Be Together</i>) <i>"In July 1976, my wife Mary, son Jonathan, 6, daughter Suzanne, 7, and I set sail from Plymouth, England, to duplicate the round-the-world voyage made 200 years earlier by Captain James Cook."</i> 1. What was the main purpose of the narrator's voyage? 2. Name the two children accompanying the narrator on this voyage. 3. Mention the name of the author's professionally built boat referenced in this lesson.	3 (1×3)
----	---	------------------------------

12	Prose Extract (Snapshots) Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given below: (A) (<i>Prose: The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse</i>) <i>"One day back there in the good old days when I was nine and the world was full of every imaginable kind of grandeur, and life was still a delightful and mysterious dream, my cousin Mourad came to my house at four in the morning and woke me up tapping on the window of my room."</i> 1. Name the narrator and his cousin mentioned in the extract. 2. Which tribe did the boys belong to, and what was their tribe famous for? 3. What unexpected sight did Mourad present to the narrator at four in the morning? 4. Find a word from the extract that means "splendor" or "magnificence." OR (B) (<i>Prose: The Address</i>) <i>"Do you know me?" I asked.</i> <i>The woman looked at me searchingly. She had opened the door a chink. I came closer and stood on the step.</i> <i>'No, I don't know you.'</i> <i>'I am Mrs. S's daughter.'</i> 1. Name the lesson from which this extract has been taken. 2. Who is the woman who opened the door? 3. Why did the narrator visit the address given to her by her mother? 4. What was the woman's reaction upon hearing the narrator introduce herself?	4 (1×4)
----	--	------------------------------

13	Short Answer Questions (Hornbill: Prose & Poetry) Answer ANY TWO of the following four questions in 40–50 words each: (i) How does the rain describe its eternal lifecycle and journey from earth to sky in <i>The Voice of the Rain</i>? (ii) According to the poet, what are the three stages of realization when an individual loses their <i>Childhood</i>? (iii) What was Howard Carter’s major discovery, and why was his investigation of King Tut’s mummy criticized in <i>Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues</i>? (iv) How does the poet describe the lack of emotional communication between father and son in <i>Father to Son</i>?	(2x3)
14	Short Answer Questions (Snapshots) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 40–50 words: (i) How does Dr. Andrew Manson manage to revive the stillborn child of Joe Morgan in <i>Birth</i>? (ii) What caused the King to order his own execution in <i>The Tale of Melon City</i>, and how was a melon eventually crowned king?	(1x3)
15	Long Answer Question (Hornbill: Prose) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120–150 words: (A) Professor Gaitonde’s experience at Azad Maidan was a classic illustration of Catastrophe Theory and parallel realities. Explain how Rajendra Deshpande analyzes this experience in <i>The Adventure</i>. OR (B) Physical challenges, altitude sickness, and harsh weather conditions tested the author’s resolve during his journey to Mount Kailash. Describe Nick Middleton’s experiences and encounters during his travelogue in <i>Silk Road</i>.	6 (1x6)

16	Long Answer Question (Snapshots: Play/Prose) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120–150 words: (A) J.B. Priestley uses satire and humor in <i>Mother's Day</i> to highlight the unappreciated role of homemakers. Discuss how Mrs. Fitzgerald's intervention brings about a transformation in the attitude of the Pearson family. OR (B) Both <i>The Address</i> and <i>The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse</i> present moral dilemmas involving conscience, integrity, and memory. Compare how the main characters in both stories navigate these ethical dilemmas.	6 (1x6)
----	--	-------------------------------