

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi

Practice Paper (2026-27)

Class – XII

SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (Code: 301)

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The paper is divided into three sections:

Section A: Reading Skills, Section-B: Writing Skills and Section C: Literature. All the sections are compulsory.

2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION -A READING SKILLS (22 Marks)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

(12)

Generation Z: Connected, Conscious and Caught in Between

Generation Z, generally identified as those born between the late 1990s and early 2010s, has grown up during a period of extraordinary technological and social change. Unlike earlier generations, many of its members encountered digital devices, social media and instant communication from childhood. This constant connectivity has changed not only how they communicate but also how they learn, form opinions and participate in society. Information is available to them within seconds, but the ability to distinguish reliable information from misinformation has become equally important.

Research on young people frequently points to another defining feature of Gen Z: a strong concern for **authenticity and individual identity**. They tend to value spaces where they can express opinions, interests and identities without being forced into traditional categories. At the same time, they are increasingly conscious of issues such as climate change, equality, mental health and social justice. For many, success is therefore not measured only by academic qualifications or income; purpose, flexibility and personal well-being have also become significant considerations.

Yet the same digital environment that gives Gen Z a voice, can create considerable pressure. Social media provides opportunities for friendship, creativity and community,

but it also encourages continuous comparison. Young people may encounter hundreds of carefully selected images and achievements in a single day, often forgetting that these represent only fragments of other people's lives. The resulting pressure to appear successful, attractive or constantly productive can contribute to anxiety, dissatisfaction and emotional fatigue.

Another challenge is attention fragmentation. Notifications, short videos and rapidly changing online content compete constantly for attention. Switching repeatedly between tasks may create the impression of productivity without necessarily producing deep concentration. Consequently, some educators have begun emphasising digital discipline: purposeful screen use, uninterrupted study periods and deliberate breaks from online platforms.

However, it would be misleading to describe Gen Z simply as a generation harmed by technology. Its digital fluency can also be a significant advantage. Young people can access diverse perspectives, collaborate across geographical boundaries, learn independently and mobilise support for causes they consider important. Their willingness to question established practices can encourage institutions to reconsider outdated systems.

Perhaps, then, Gen Z's defining challenge is not choosing between the digital and physical worlds but learning to manage the relationship between them. Its future will depend not merely on how much technology it can use, but on how wisely it can use it—knowing when information needs to be questioned, when comparison needs to stop and when connection needs to give way to reflection. (350 words)

Answer the following questions based on your understanding of the passage.

1. Gen Z's constant access to information has increased the need for _____(1)

- A. memorising information quickly
- B. communicating through digital platforms
- C. evaluating the credibility of information
- D. increasing dependence on technology

2. Gen Z's definition of success _____. (1)

- A. has become primarily dependent on financial achievement.
- B. increasingly includes purpose, flexibility and well-being.
- C. is determined by social recognition and popularity.
- D. has completely shifted away from academic achievement.

3. Mention the values that are important to Gen Z ? (1)

4. The reference to “carefully selected images and achievements” primarily highlights that social media can_____ (1)

- A. provide an accurate picture of people’s lives
- B. encourage unrealistic comparisons with others
- C. reduce young people’s need for social interaction
- D. motivate users to become constantly productive

5. What paradox of social media is highlighted in paragraph 3 ? (1)

6. Frequent switching between online tasks may create an “impression of productivity” as_____ (1)

- A. it increases the amount of information a person receives.
- B. it enables people to complete several difficult tasks simultaneously.
- C. it encourages learners to spend more time studying online.
- D. it makes people appear busy without ensuring deep concentration.

7. **Assertion (A):** Gen Z needs digital discipline despite being digitally fluent.

Reason (R): Constant online stimulation can interfere with sustained concentration. (1)

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

8. Which of the following is **NOT** presented as an advantage of Gen Z’s digital fluency? (1)

- A. Independent learning
- B. Global collaboration
- C. Access to diverse perspectives
- D. Freedom from social pressure

9. **Complete the analogy:** (1)

Digital fluency : Advantage :: Misinformation : _____

- A. Opportunity
- B. Discipline
- C. Risk
- D. Collaboration

10. Gen Z’s defining challenge, according to the passage, is_____ (1)

- A. replacing digital interaction with physical interaction

- B. reducing its dependence on technology altogether
- C. balancing technological engagement with thoughtful self-regulation
- D. choosing between traditional values and modern technology

11. How does the passage distinguish Gen Z's digital fluency from its digital dependence? (2)

Q 2. Read the following passage carefully: (10)

Road Safety: From Awareness to Action

(1) Introduction:

Road safety remains a serious public concern in India. According to the *Road Accidents in India – 2023* report, 4,80,583 road accidents were reported during the year, resulting in 1,72,890 deaths. The figures highlight that road accidents are not merely traffic-related incidents but a major social concern. Overspeeding, careless driving, distracted driving and failure to use helmets or seat belts continue to increase the risk of serious accidents. The challenge becomes particularly important around schools, where children and young commuters share busy roads with vehicles.

(2) Methodology:

To examine whether simple, targeted measures could improve safety around schools, a year-long road-safety initiative was undertaken in selected school zones. Traffic movement was observed during opening and closing hours. Information was collected from students, parents, teachers and traffic personnel. Based on the observations, schools introduced clearly marked crossings, speed-calming measures, warning signs and designated pick-up and drop-off points. Awareness sessions were conducted alongside these physical improvements.

(3) Survey:

A survey of 1,200 students revealed that while 82% were aware of basic road-safety rules, only 61% reported following them consistently. Nearly 47% said that they had seen vehicles speeding near their schools. Parents identified traffic congestion and unsafe parking as major concerns. Students, meanwhile, suggested peer-led campaigns, posters and short awareness drives as effective ways of encouraging responsible behaviour.

(4) Results:

After the interventions, observations showed a 28% reduction in reported minor traffic incidents around the participating schools. Compliance with designated crossings improved, while instances of unsafe parking declined. The findings suggested that infrastructure produced better results when accompanied by awareness and community participation.

(5) Implications for Interventions:

The case demonstrates that road safety cannot depend on enforcement alone. Authorities can create safer spaces, schools can build awareness, and technology can strengthen monitoring; however, individual choices remain crucial. A student using a designated crossing, a parent avoiding unsafe parking and a driver respecting speed limits each contribute to a safer environment. Thus, sustainable road safety requires a combination of evidence, infrastructure, awareness, enforcement and personal responsibility.

(350 words)

Answer the following questions based on your understanding of the passage.

1. The primary purpose of presenting the statistics in the passage is to (1)
 - A. compare road conditions across Indian cities
 - B. establish the seriousness and scale of the road-safety problem
 - C. prove that school zones are the only dangerous areas
 - D. explain the causes of traffic congestion
2. The methodology involves both observations and responses from different groups? (1)
 - A. to replace official accident records
 - B. to obtain a broader understanding of safety concerns and behaviour
 - C. to determine which group caused the most accidents
 - D. to measure students' awareness of traffic rules
3. The difference between 82% awareness and 61% consistent compliance in the survey indicate that (1)
 - A. most students were unaware of road-safety rules.
 - B. awareness does not necessarily translate into responsible behaviour.
 - C. students rejected the need for road-safety measures.
 - D. road-safety rules were considered difficult to understand.
4. Which of the following can be inferred from the survey findings? (1)
 - A. parents and students experienced exactly the same concerns.
 - B. traffic congestion was considered unimportant by parents.
 - C. different stakeholders identified different aspects of the safety problem.
 - D. students believed that enforcement alone could solve the problem.
5. What was the effect of the interventions undertaken on the road safety ? What does it suggest ? (2)

6. Which statement best reflects the author's perspective in the passage? (1)

- A. road safety is primarily the responsibility of the government.
- B. technology is the only reliable solution to road accidents.
- C. road safety requires coordinated action and responsible individual behaviour.
- D. school students have little role in improving road safety.

7. Classify the following concerns identified by the stakeholder (Parents / Students) : (2)

Concern	Stakeholder
Traffic congestion	
Unsafe parking	
Peer-led campaigns	
Posters and short awareness drives	

8. Which factor does the case study identify as crucial for making road-safety measures sustainable? (1)

- A. stricter penalties alone
- B. greater dependence on technology
- C. individual responsibility alongside collective measures
- D. increased traffic monitoring

SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS. (18 Marks)

Q 3. Attempt **any one** of the two : (50 words) (1×4=4)

(a) Your school is organising a '**Digital Citizenship and Ethical Social Media Use**' awareness campaign to sensitise students about responsible online behaviour, privacy, misinformation and respectful communication. As the Secretary of Digital Literacy Club of your school, draft a notice inviting students of Classes XI and XII to participate. Mention all necessary details. You are **Aarav/Ananya**. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(b) As part of **Reading Week**, your school is organising a **Book Review Challenge** for students of Classes IX to XII. Participants will present their reviews of a book of their choice before a panel of teachers. As the Literary Club Secretary of **Green Valley School, Mayur Vihar**, write a notice inviting interested students to register. Mention the necessary details. You are **Kavya/Karan**. Put your notice in a box.

Q.4 Attempt any one of the two :(50 words)

(1×4=4)

(a) You are Ishita/Ishaan, Events Manager at Vision Arc Design Consultants. Your firm is conducting a **National Symposium on Design Thinking and Innovation**. Draft a **formal invitation** to Ms Radhika Suri, Dean of the Institute of Architecture and Planning, requesting her to grace the occasion as the Guest Speaker.

OR

(b) You have been invited by your close friend, Aarav, to his housewarming ceremony. Write an **informal reply accepting** the invitation in about 50 words. You are Riya Mehta/ Ravi Mehta .

Q.5. Attempt any one of the two :(125-150 words)

(1×5=5)

A. The indiscriminate use and disposal of plastic has emerged as a major threat to the environment and public health. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the growing menace of plastic waste and recommending practical measures for its reduction. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are **Ria Verma, 56, Nehru Nagar**.

- excessive dependence on single-use plastics
- plastic waste clogging drains and polluting water bodies
- inadequate public awareness and irresponsible disposal
- strengthening waste segregation and management
- promoting sustainable alternatives to plastic
- active participation of schools, media and civic authorities

OR

B. You are **Evaan ,28 Green Park, Jaipur**. You came across the following advertisement in a national daily and wish to apply for the post. Write a **job application along with your bio-data in 125–150 words**.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EcoVista Resorts, a leading hospitality group, invites applications for the post of **Guest Relations Executive** at its Udaipur property. **Eligibility:** Graduate in Hospitality Management, Tourism or a related discipline

Experience: Minimum 1 year of experience in the hospitality/customer-service sector

Essential Skills: Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, proficiency in English and Hindi, ability to handle guests professionally, basic computer skills and familiarity with online booking platforms

Desirable: Pleasant personality, problem-solving ability and willingness to work, flexible hours...Interested candidates may send their applications to:

Ms. Neha Kapoor, HR Manager, EcoVista Resorts, 18 Lake View Road, Udaipur.

Q.6. Attempt **any one** of the two :(125-150 words)

.(1×5=5)

A. In an age dominated by constant notifications, hectic schedules and the pressure to remain productive, the ability to pause and truly experience the present seems to be disappearing. As **Vanya / Vansh** , write an **article on 'It's Time to Pause and Reflect'** for a national daily highlighting the need to rediscover the value of slowing down and creating meaningful pauses in everyday life. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

- culture of constant busyness and its impact on well-being
- technology-driven lifestyles and shrinking attention spans
- weakening bonds with nature, family and oneself
- value of mindful celebrations, leisure and simple pleasures
- creating healthy digital boundaries
- role of schools, communities and media in promoting a balanced lifestyle

OR

B. You are **Manisha / Manish** , a student reporter for your school magazine. Your school recently hosted a **two-day inter-school literary and cultural fest**. Write a **report in 125–150 words** covering the major highlights of the event, including its

purpose, participation, activities and outcome. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas:

- **What:** theme and objective of the fest
- **Who:** participating schools, students and guests
- **When & Where:** date and venue
- **How:** competitions, performances and other activities
- **Outcome:** winners, key takeaways and overall response

SECTION C- Literature (40 marks)

7.. Read the stanza and answer **any one** set of questions that follow: (1x6=6)

A.Driving from my parents' home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother beside me, dozed, open-mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse, and realized with pain that she was as old as she looked. (My Mother at Sixty six)

(i) What realization about her mother becomes unavoidable for the poet as she observes her during the journey? (1)

- A. Her mother has become increasingly dependent on her.
- B. Her mother's advancing age has made her physically fragile.
- C. Her mother is unhappy about leaving her home.
- D. Her mother is unable to adjust to the changing times.

(ii) The comparison of the mother's face to that of a corpse primarily evokes a sense of _____.(1)

(iii) Complete the following suitably:(1)

The poet's sudden awareness of her mother's age intensifies her fear of _____.

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:(1)

The word '**dozed**' suggests that the mother was (**resting peacefully / physically tired and vulnerable**).

(v) The expression "**realized with pain**" reveals more than the poet's sadness. What deeper emotional conflict does it convey?(1)

(vi) Read the Assertion and Reason given below and choose the correct option:(1)

Assertion: The poet momentarily distances herself from the painful reality of her mother's ageing.

Reason: The sudden recognition of her mother's frailty makes her confront a reality that she finds emotionally difficult to accept.

- A. Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion.
- B. Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason does not explain the Assertion.
- C. The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- D. The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

OR

*B) 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. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
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) Which of the following statements is **NOT** consistent with the ideas expressed in the extract?(1)

- A. Nature provides solace even when human life is burdened with despair.
- B. Beautiful things have the power to uplift the human spirit.
- C. The poet believes that human beings are responsible for preserving nature's beauty.
- D. The sun, moon and trees are presented as eternal source of joy and comfort.

(ii) In the expression "the inhuman dearth of noble natures", the word 'dearth' refers to:(1)

- A. abundance
- B. absence or scarcity
- C. transformation
- D. celebration

(iii) Complete the following suitably:(1)

The phrase “in spite of all” emphasises that beauty continues to _____ even when life is filled with suffering and despair.

(iv) Select the correct option to fill in the blank:

The tone of the poet in this extract is (pessimistic and cynical / reflective and reassuring).(1)

(v) The word “pall” is used metaphorically to suggest:(1)

- A. a thick mist covering the natural world
- B. a shroud of sadness and gloom covering the human spirit
- C. a symbol of celebration and happiness
- D. a mysterious force beyond human understanding

(vi) How does the poet suggest that the experience of beauty can transform our response to the difficulties of life? Answer in one sentence.(1)

Q. 8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **any one** of the given two , (a) or (b) 4×1=4

A) Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer’s good lady. The king and the minister expected the *Duraisani* to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all, the *Duraisani* sent her reply: Thank you very much for your gifts. In two days, a bill for three lakh of rupees came from the British jewellers. The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom. (**The Tiger King**)

(i) Why did the Maharaja decide to send the set of rings to the British officer’s wife?(1)

(ii) Which one of the following traits of the Maharaja is most evident from his actions in the extract?(1)

- A. Careless
- B. Irresponsible
- C. Loyal
- D. Manipulative

(iii) How does the incident illustrate the paradox of ‘gain through loss’? (1)

(iv) Complete the following suitably:(1)

The Maharaja's expectations were overturned when *Duraisani* _____

OR

B. My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies, but the best occurred just short of the Antarctic Circle at 65.55 degrees south. The Shokalskiy had managed to wedge herself into a thick white stretch of ice between the peninsula and Tadpole Island which was preventing us from going any further. The Captain decided we were going to turn around and head back north, but before we did, we were all instructed to climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean. So there we were, all 52 of us, kitted out in Gore-Tex and glaries, walking on a stark whiteness that seemed to spread out forever. Underneath our feet was a metre-thick ice pack, and underneath that, 180 metres of living, breathing salt water. In the periphery Crabeater seals were stretching and sunning themselves on ice floes much like stray dogs will do under the shade of a banyan tree. It was nothing short of a revelation: everything does indeed connect.
(Journey to the end of the earth)

(i) Why does the author regard this particular experience as the “best” of her Antarctic epiphanies?(1)

(ii) Complete the following suitably:

The contrast between the “stark whiteness” above and the “living, breathing salt water” beneath highlights _____.(1)

(iii) Which of the following best explains the Captain's decision to let the passengers walk on the ocean?(1)

- A. He wanted to compensate for the ship's inability to proceed further.
- B. He wanted the travellers to directly experience the uniqueness of the Antarctic environment.
- C. He wanted to test the passengers' ability to withstand extreme weather.
- D. He wanted to provide an opportunity for the passengers to observe the seals closely.

(iv) The phrase “everything does indeed connect” conveys the author's realisation that:(1)

- A. all Antarctic species depend directly on human intervention.
- B. the seemingly separate elements of the natural world are interconnected.
- C. humans have complete control over the natural environment.
- D. Antarctica is isolated from the rest of the world.

Q.9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two
,(a) or (b) 1x6=6

A. But Champaran did not begin as an act of defiance. It grew out of an attempt to alleviate the distress of large numbers of poor peasants. This was the typical Gandhi pattern — his politics were intertwined with the practical, day-to-day problems of the millions. His was not a loyalty to abstractions; it was a loyalty to living, human beings. In everything Gandhi did, moreover, he tried to mould a new free Indian who could stand on his own feet and thus make India free. **(Indigo)**

(i) What was the primary objective behind Gandhi's involvement in Champaran?(1)

(ii) Select the option that best captures the "typical Gandhi pattern" mentioned in the extract.(1)

- A. Separating politics from social concerns
- B. Linking political action with people's everyday problems
- C. Focusing exclusively on achieving political freedom
- D. Encouraging people to depend on political leaders

(iii) Complete the following suitably:(1)

Gandhi's loyalty to "living, human beings" indicates his concern for _____ rather than merely for theoretical or political ideals.

(iv) What does the expression "mould a new free Indian" suggest about Gandhi's vision for India?(1)

(v) Which quality of Gandhi is most strongly reflected in his approach to the Champaran problem?(1)

- A. Indifference
- B. Pragmatism and compassion
- C. Political ambition
- D. Personal authority

(vi) Complete the following analogy by choosing one word from the above extract :(1)

oppose : disagree :: mitigate : _____ (1)

OR

B. "I am thinking of this stranger here," said the young girl. "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here — just one in the whole year."

The ironmaster mumbled something in his beard. He could not bring himself to oppose her. (**The Rattrap**)

(i) Choose the most appropriate word to describe Edla's attitude towards the peddler.(1)

- A. Contemptuous
- B. Compassionate
- C. Suspicious
- D. Indifferent

Q2. Which phrase from the extract most clearly conveys the peddler's sense of homelessness?(1)

- A. this stranger here
- B. walks and walks
- C. not a single place ... where he is welcome
- D. afraid of being arrested

Q3. What does Edla's wish to give the peddler "a day of peace" reveal about her understanding of his life?(1)

- A. He leads a secure but lonely life.
- B. He constantly faces rejection and insecurity.
- C. He prefers travelling to staying at home.
- D. He deliberately avoids people.

Q4. Complete the following suitably:(1)

Edla's compassion contrasts with the peddler's experience of _____ .

Q5. The statement "Wherever he turns he is chased away" suggests that the peddler is: (1)

- A. unable to find acceptance in society
- B. unwilling to work honestly
- C. deliberately avoiding social contact
- D. looking for opportunities to deceive people

Q6. What does the ironmaster's inability to oppose Edla suggest about her character?

(1)

- A. She is forceful and dominating.
- B. She is persuasive because of her genuine compassion.
- C. She is afraid of the peddler.
- D. She wants to prove the ironmaster wrong.

Q.10. Answer **any five** of the following questions in 40–50 words each 5x2 =10

(i) What does Franz's changed attitude towards French language and his own country reveal about his realisation at the end of the lesson? (**The Last Lesson**)

(ii) How do Saheb and Mukesh reflect two different responses to poverty? (**Lost Spring**)

((iii) What enabled Douglas to overcome his fear of water? (**Deep Water**)

(iv) Why did Edla's kindness have a greater impact on the peddler than the ironmaster's hospitality? (**The Rattrap**)

(v) Why does Neruda clarify that keeping quiet does not mean *total inactivity*? (**Keeping Quiet**)

(vi) How does beauty help human beings overcome the gloom and despair of life?

(**A Thing of Beauty**)

Q.11. Answer **any two** of the following questions in 40–50 words each (2x2=4)

(i) What does Charley's search for the third level reveal about his state of mind? (**The Third Level**)

(ii) How did Dr Sadao's professional duty influence his decision regarding the wounded American soldier ?(**The Enemy**)

(iii) The Tiger King's royal power is both his strength and his greatest weakness. Discuss. (**The Tiger King**)

Q.12 Answer **any one** of the following two questions in 120-150 words . 1x5=5

A.Both ***Lost Spring*** and ***Deep Water*** portray individuals struggling against forces that restrict their freedom. While Saheb and Mukesh are constrained by poverty, exploitation and limited opportunities, Douglas struggles with an internal fear. Compare the nature of these barriers and explain how each text presents the possibility of overcoming them. (120-150 words)

OR

B. Life often brings fear, uncertainty, suffering and change. How do ***My Mother at Sixty-Six***, ***Keeping Quiet*** and ***A Thing of Beauty*** offer different yet meaningful ways of facing such challenges? Compare the perspectives of the three poets with suitable references to the poems. (125–150 words)

13. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in 120-150 words . 1x5=5

A. Both ***The Third Level*** and ***Journey to the End of the Earth*** involve a journey beyond the familiar world. However, the purpose of these journeys is different. While Charley seeks an escape from the stress and insecurities of the present, the journey to Antarctica helps the narrator understand the Earth's past, present and future. Compare and Elaborate.. (125–150 words)

OR

B.***The Tiger King*** and ***The Enemy*** explore how personal beliefs and circumstances can shape human choices. The Maharaja's obsession with proving the prophecy wrong leads to reckless decisions, whereas Dr Sadao's moral dilemma ultimately leads him to choose humanity over national loyalty. How do the two texts use character conflict to reveal contrasting aspects of human nature? (125–150 words)