

# **Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi**

## **Mid Term Practice Paper (2025-26)**

**Class – XII**

**English Core (Code: 301)**

**Time: 3 hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

### **General Instructions**

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- i) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii) This question paper contains three sections:

Section A-Reading Skills (22 marks)

Section B-Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)

Section C - Literature (40 marks)

- iii) Attempt all the questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

### **Section A- Reading Skills (22 marks)**

**Q.1 Read the following text and answer the questions that follow: (12 marks)**

1. In India, languages are evolving and that has created a debate. But today's version carries a modern twist. The policy makers are arguing over languages, like Hindi, Marathi Tamil and so on. But the young Indians have already moved on and are speaking something entirely different.
2. Whether you are scrolling through Instagram in Chennai, walking into a cafe in Bengaluru, or eavesdropping on a group chat in Mumbai, you'll hear a language that doesn't belong to textbooks. It's a seamless fusion of Hindi and English, Tamil and English, Marathi and English -and what we now call English, Tanglish, Marlish and more. These aren't formal languages. These are hybrid languages or linguistic mashups. They are less about breaking grammar rules and more about creating new connections in a changing digital world.
3. Linguist and teacher, Pranjali B sees the shift as an organic response to India's changing cultural landscape." Languages like Hinglish or Tanglish show how urban India is changing. People in Metro and small cities are combining traditions with modern life. It's a sign that India overall is becoming more flexible and global."-she explains.
4. As smart phones, streaming platforms, and voice assistance become more widespread, this mixed language is quietly spreading to smaller towns and semi urban spaces too. The rise of technology is also complimented by the hybrid languages in India. AI tools, voice assistance, social media, influencers, and

OTT content has made code mixing the new normal. Sumit Verma, an entrepreneur and founder of School yatra, College yatra comments-“AI tools are trained on mixed language. Data voice assistance responds to hybrid commands like ‘Kal ka reminder set kar do’ without any confusion.

5. However, there is a criticism of this rise of hybrid languages as well. There is a possibility that in the future, the basic structures of our languages will be depth less. It’s a delicate balance. On one hand, code mixing makes languages more accessible. On the other hand, it risks blurring the richness of India’s classical tongues. Sumit believes. “the growing acceptance of code mixing underlines India’s deep rooted, multilingual mindset and its incredible linguistic flexibility. Educational framework should encourage multilingual proficiency while embracing code mixing as a valid form of communication.” Such inclusivity in language may lead to better engagement, especially among the youth.

(Source: Adapted from the Free Press Journal)

Answer the following questions based on the given passage:

- i) What is the ‘modern twist ‘in evolution of Indian languages? 1  
(para 1)
- ii) Tanglish is a 1
  - a) modern language
  - b) hybrid language
  - c) foreign language
  - d) no language
- iii) What are the two things that happen in linguistic Mashups? 2  
(para 2)
- iv) Mention two things that linguist Pranjali B says about trends in modern Indian urban languages. (para 3) 2
- v) Two things that are taking mashup languages to smaller towns in India are
  - a) smart phones and streaming platforms
  - b) Tanglish and Hinglish
  - c) grammar rules, and new connections
  - d) education, and traditions 1
- vi) How is rise of technology complimented by the hybrid languages in India? Give one example from the passage. 1
- vii) Write one negative aspect of code mixing in Indian languages. 1
- viii) Write one positive aspect of code mixing in Indian languages. 1
- ix) Write one suggestion given in the passage for Educational framework regarding languages in India. 1
- x) Which of the following is not true about code mixing in Indian languages? 1

- a) makes languages more accessible
- b) deep, rooted, multilingual mindset
- c) incredible, linguistic flexibility
- d) opening new language schools and colleges

Q.2 Read the following text and answer the questions that follow: **(10 marks)**

1. The Global Gender Gap index studies annually and benchmarks the current state and the evolution of gender parity across the world. It does so across four key dimensions: *economic participation and opportunity*, *educational attainment*, *health and survival*, and *political empowerment*. In 2025, this study of gender parity was carried across 148 countries, which makes up 2/3 of the world's economies.
2. The Global Gender Gap score in 2025 stands at 68.8%. So, the global gender gap closed by +0.3 percentage points in 2025, from 68.4% in 2024 to 68.8% in 2025. Based on this data, it will take 123 years to reach full parity globally. The 2025 Global Gender Gap index shows that no economy has yet achieved full gender parity.
3. European countries dominate the top 10 of this index. Among them, Iceland 92.6%, first, Finland 87.9%, second, Norway, 86.3%, third, and Sweden 81.7% sixth have consistently ranked in top 10 every year since 2006. The United Kingdom 83.8% fourth and the Republic of Moldova 81.3% seventh have moved up in rankings from last year to join the top 10 Germany 80.3% 9th and Ireland 80.1% 10th are also in top 10 New Zealand, 82.7%, fifth and Namibia 81.1% eighth have the two remaining spots in top 10 since 2021.
4. The way to full gender parity is not the same across the four key dimensions. Out of the 148 countries covered in 2025 index, the *health and survival* gender gap has closed by 96.2%. The *educational attainment* gap by 95.1%, the economic participation and opportunity gap by 61.0% and the political empowerment gap by 22.9%, respectively.
5. The areas of *economic participation and opportunity*; and *political empowerment* has seen the greatest progress towards gender parity. Yet these two dimensions have the largest remaining gaps to close. *Political empowerment* has seen the most improvement with the gap narrowing by nine percentage points-from 14.3% in 2006 to 23.4% in 2025. At the current phase, it will still take 162 years to fully close this gap.
6. Similarly, the *economic participation and opportunity* gap has narrowed by +5.6 percentage points from 55.1% in 2006 to 60.7% in 2025. Attaining full parity may take another 135 years if current trends persist.

(Source: Adapted from Global Gender Gap Report 2025, World Economic Forum)

- i) This is not one of the four key dimensions to study global gender gap index: 1
- a) economic participation
  - b) educational attainment
  - c) health and survival
  - d) gender parity

- ii) In 2025, the study of gender parity was carried across..... countries of the world. 1
- a) 75%
- b) 66%
- c) 42%
- d) 48%
- iii) Explain how *economic participation and opportunity*; and *political empowerment* has seen the greatest progress towards gender parity, yet have the largest remaining gaps to close. 2
- iv) According to the 2025 gender gap studies it will take..... years to make the two genders in the world attain an equal status. 1
- v) Which country in the world has the highest level of equality between the two genders?
- a) Finland
- b) Iceland
- c) Sweden
- d) Norway 1
- vi) ..... and ..... are two countries having spots in top 10 ranking of gender parity in the world. 2
- vii) Out of the four key dimensions of the Global Gender Gap index studies, the one having made the maximum increase is 1
- a) health and survival
- b) educational entertainment
- c) economic participation, and opportunity
- d) political empowerment
- viii) Attaining full parity in , the *economic participation and opportunity* gap may take .....years. 1

## SECTION B

### CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

**Q.3 Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. 4**

A) You are Manish/Manisha, head boy of RPVV Daulat Ganj. You have planned to organise a career counselling workshop for the students of class XII. Draft a notice in informing students about the Workshop. Invent necessary details as required.

OR

B) You are Sumit/Sunita of class XII in SOSE Rajouri Garden. During the recess period of your school, you find a bag with some money and a watch. Write a notice asking the owner to identify and collect it from you.

**Q.4 Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.**

**4**

A) You have been invited as a judge for a Speech Competition by SKV Pul Vihar. Draft a reply of refusal, giving reasons.

OR

B) Mr SK Gupta wishes to invite his friend, Mr VK Kapoor to his brother's engagement party. Draft an informal invitation inventing necessary details.

**Q.5 Attempt any one of the two,(A) or (B), in about 120-150 words.**

**5**

A) In the summer vacations you visited your native village. You saw that some children remained at home and were working in the fields or simply roaming here and there in the streets. They were in the age group 8 to 14years. (the age in which they should be studying in school). Write a letter to the editor of a national daily describing the problem and offering solutions to it. You are Roshni/Roshan, B- 105 Crescent Society, Defence Colony, Lucknow.

OR

B) You are Mahesh/Monica of 24, Saloni Society, Mahinder Garh. You saw an advertisement in a newspaper for the post of an Accountant. You wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to The General Manager, GS Enterprises, Baroda, along with a detailed biodata, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

**Q.6 Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.**

**5**

A) You are Raksha/Rakesh, a student of class XII. You listen to music whenever you are stressed and feel relaxed. It heals your body and soul; destresses and refreshes your mind.

Write an article on 'Music for self-help' for the school magazine, highlighting the healing power of music. You may use the following ideas to write your article.

- \* Improves one's mood
- \* relaxes, body, mind, and soul
- \* lowers stress, and anxiety
- \* helps in gaining confidence

OR

B) You are Anju/Anuj , Student editor of XYZ Public School Magazine. Your school recently visited an art exhibition of your school in which students from all classes participated. They presented paintings, drawings, sculptures, and so on from different parts of India. All the visitors appreciated the efforts. Write a report on the exhibition, to be published in your school magazine. You may use the following cues.

- \* participants
- \* theme of the exhibition

- \* parts of India represented in the exhibition
- \* types of painting, sculptures, et cetera
- \* visitors' feedback

## SECTION C

### LITERATURE (40 marks)

**7. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)**

**(6x1=6 )**

A. ... I looked at her, wan, pale  
 As a late winters, moon and felt that old  
 Familiar ache, my childhood fear, but all I said was,  
 see you soon, Amma,  
 all I did was smile and smile...

i) How does the poet feel after looking at her mother? 1

- a) fearful and apprehensive
- b) excited and eager
- c) confused and comfortable
- d) understanding and lost

ii) What is the significance of the word 'but' in ' but all I said, was see you soon, Amma'? 1

iii) What inference can you draw from the line 'felt that old familiar ache' ? 1

iv) Select the word that completes the sentence appropriately. 1

The description of the mother as ' wan, pale as a late winters' moon' creates an image of..... 1

- a) sensitivity
- b) relativity
- c) mortality
- d) variety

v) The poetic device used in the line ' pale as a winter's moon' is 1

- a) simile
- b) metaphor
- c) repetition
- d) alliteration

vi) Complete the sentence with appropriate words. 1

The repetition of the word 'smile' suggests .....

**OR**

B. Perhaps the Earth can teach us.

As when everything seems dead

And later proves to be alive

Now I'll count up to twelve

And you keep quiet, and I will go.

i) What can one infer from the line- 'When everything seems dead' ? 1

a) when we count up to twelve

b) when we are at war with our own brothers

c) when there is apparent stillness, but life on earth goes on

d) when we do not speak in any language.

ii) The poet is requesting human beings to keep quiet for 1

a) twelve seconds

b) thirteen seconds

c) ten seconds

d) eleven seconds

iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

Humanity needs to learn a lesson from ..... 1

iv) Why does the poet feel the need for quiet introspection? 1

v) What message does the earth give us? 1

vi) State, whether the following sentence is **true** or **false**.

'There is life, even in the moments of total inactivity.' 1

**Q.8 Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)**

**(4x1=4)**

A. I turned into Grand Central from Vanderbilt Avenue, and went down the steps to the first level, where you take trains like the 20th century. Then I walked down another flight to the second level, where the suburban trains leave from, ducked into an arched doorway, heading for the subway – and got lost. That's easy to do. I've been in and out of Grand Central hundreds of times, but I am always bumping into new doors and stairs and corridors. Once I got into a tunnel about a mile long and came out in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel. Another time I came up in an office building on 46th Street, three blocks away

- i) The 'suburban' here means 1
- a) a place on the outskirts of city
- b) a place near the subway
- c) a place where you find something to eat
- d) a place where they are no cars
- ii) Who is 'I' in the given extract? 1
- iii) The Grand Central in the lesson 'The Third Level' is the name of 1
- a) a street
- b) a train station
- c) a bus station
- d) a cinema hall
- iv) ..... refers to a construction design used in buildings. 1
- a. suburban
- b. avenue
- c. arched
- d. ducked

**OR**

B. Human civilisations have been around for a paltry 12,000 years – barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time, we managed to create quite a ruckus, itching a dominance over nature with our villages, towns, cities, mega cities. The rapid increase of human population has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly, but surely increasing the average global temperature.

- i) What are the things created by human civilisations on the earth that the writer calls 'quite a ruckus'? 1
- ii) How many years are equal to a few seconds on the geological clock according to the writer? 1
- a) 1200 years
- b) 12,000 years



c) 120 years

d) 12 years

iii) An increase in human population has led to

1

a) limited resources

b) fossil fuels

c) carbon dioxide

d) geological clock

iv) 'The unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world'.

Do you think human beings are behaving responsibly on the earth? Why/Why not? 1

**Q.9 Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)**

**(6x1=6)**

A. When I first visited Gandhi in 1942 at his Ashram in Sevagram, in Central India, he said, "I will tell you how it happened that I decided to urge the departure of the British. It was in 1917. "

He had gone to the December 1916 annual convention of the Indian National Congress party in Lucknow. There were 2301 delegates and many visitors. During the proceedings, Gandhi recounted, "a peasant came up to me, looking like any other present in India, poor, and emaciated, and said, "I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district!" Gandhi had never heard of the place. It was in the foothills of the towering Himalayas, near the kingdom of Nepal.

i) Who is 'I' in the first line?

1

ii) Gandhiji decided to throw British out from India in

1

a) 1917

b) 1916

c) 1942

d) 1947

iii) Find the phrase from the extract, from which we can infer that condition of peasants in India was miserable.

1

iv) A place situated in the foothills of Himalayas near the kingdom of Nepal, is

1

a) Champaran

b) Lucknow

c) Sevagram

d) Delhi

v) A word in the extract, means 'abnormally, thin or weak, especially due to lack of food or illness' is

1

- a) departure
- b) urge
- c) emaciated
- d) towering

vi) Raj Kumar Shukla is a

1

- a. lawyer
- b. peasant
- c. politician
- d. teacher

### OR

B. I used every way I knew to overcome this fear, but it held me firmly in its grip. Finally, one October, I decided to get an instructor and learn to swim. I went to a pool and practised five days a week, and on each day the instructor put a belt around me. A rope attached to the belt went through a pulley that ran on an overhead cable. He held onto the end of the rope, and we went back and forth, back and forth across the pool, hour after hour, day after day, week after week.

i) What fear was the narrator trying to overcome?

1

ii) A *simple machine* that the narrator used to overcome his fear was

1

- a) belt
- b) pulley
- c) rope
- d) pool

iii) Complete the following sentence using appropriate words from the extract.

The narrator hired..... to learn swimming.

1

iv) What does the narrator suggest with the use of 'back-and-forth, back-and-forth across the pool hour after hour, day after day, week after week.'

1

- a) perseverance
- b) phobia
- c) aversion
- d) overcome

v) What can you infer about the narrator from the extract above?

1

- a) he did not practice at all
- b) he practised a lot
- c) he wanted to play

d) he was not serious

vi) Find appropriate word to complete the sentence

1

..... firmly gripped the narrator.

a) decision

b) fear

c) practice

d) overcome

**Q.10 Answer any five out of the following six questions in 40- 50 words each.**

**(5x2=10)**

i) What inference can you draw from the line "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" in the chapter, 'The Last Lesson'?

ii) Is Mukesh different from other bangle makers of Firozabad? Do you find him to be ambitious? Illustrate from the text.

iii) What was the peddler's explanation to the ironmaster for withholding his true identity? How did he manage to convince the ironmaster not to bring in the law to sort out the matter?

iv) How can we consider the Champaran episode to be a turning point in Gandhiji's life?

v) Why has the mother been compared to the late winter's moon in the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?

vi) The poet says that it is necessary to be quiet and be with oneself. What could one achieve with this? (Keeping Quiet)

**Q.11 Answer any two of the following three questions in about 40- 50 words each.**

**(2x2=4)**

i) What inference can you draw from the letter written by Sam to Charlie in the lesson 'The Third Level'?

ii) Do you think that the manner of the Tiger King's death is a matter of extraordinary interest? Why/Why not? (The Tiger King)

iii) 'I must get rid of this man for your sake.' How did Dr Sadao act like a perfect husband in the lesson 'The Enemy'?

**Q.12 Answer any one question out of the following two in about 120 to 150 words.**

**(1x5=5)**

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)

You are a journalist and want to interview Pablo Neruda. When you meet him, you have these lines in your mind. Write down your conversation with him, asking questions on themes of war, peace, and introspection. Invent Neruda's probable answers.

**OR**

B. In the story 'The Last Lesson', the entire classroom, Franz, M. Hamel and the elders present in the class are full of regret for not having learnt their mother tongue as they suddenly realise how precious their language is to them. They had not been responsible about paying respect to their mother tongue.

Do you think you are responsible and respectful of your mother tongue? After reading and understanding the message in 'The Last Lesson', Write a letter to your mother telling her how you have neglected your mother tongue and what steps would you take from now on to learn and respect your language as part of your identity.

**Q.13 Answer any one question out of the following two in about 120 to 150 words. (1x5=5)**

A. In the lesson 'Journey to the end of Earth', Tishani Doshi returns to her home and reflects on how her decision to enrol for the Students on Ice programme has been the most important decision of her life that has changed her. She also realises that visiting Antarctica has taught her many things about climate change.

Write an article in about the devastating climate changes, taking place in the world today and how they are affecting mankind.

**OR**

B. Philately helps keep the past alive, as Charlie does through his collection of stamps in the lesson 'The Third Level'. However, there is a tendency of human mind to constantly move between the past, the present, and the future. Charlie moves to his past because of anxiety, stress, worries of the modern world.

Can you think of the ways/ ideas/activities that can help the anxiety, stress and worries that the students face in the school?

As the head girl/head boy of the school, write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly, suggesting some activities and methods to the students to alleviate the anxiety and stress faced by them.