

MARKING SCHEME/ ANSWER KEY
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER (2026- 2027)
ENGLISH CORE - CLASS XI

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (15 Marks)

Award 1 mark for the correct answer.

There is no partial credit

1 Unseen Passage (A) 10x1= 10

- (i) (d) All of the above
- (ii) (c) obstinacy
- (iii) (a) I is true II is false
- (iv) (d) The father faced no difficulties in building his career
- (v) (a) Drawing
- (vi) Profession/ occupation
- (vii) Indefatigable
- (viii) Autocrat/ authoritative/ Strict etc.
- (ix) Eleven
- (x) Autobiographical

OR

Unseen Passage (B)

- (I) (d) causes and results of historical events
- (ii) (a) An impressive orator

- (iii) (c) Both I and II are true
- (iv) (a) with emotions
- (v) (c) The teacher failed to motivate his students
- (vi) Enthusiastic
- (vii) Insignificantly
- (viii) True
- (ix) Teaching of universal history in middle schools
- (x) Because of the methods of his teacher.

2 Note Making

5 marks

Title 1 mark, Abbreviation 1 mark, content 3 marks

Notes

Title : Effective Speaking and Listening (Accept any other appropriate title also)

(1) To become an effective listener

- 1.1 Develop concentration
- 1.2 Requires determination
- 1.3 Be alert both phy. & ment.
- 1.4 Keep upright posture
- 1.5 Take notes
- 1.6 Gives confidence to spk.

(2) An incomptt. listener

- 2.1 can't receive the message
- 2.2 lacks con.
- 2.3 has personal prejudices against spk.

2.4 Find counter argument

2.5 Try to compete with spk

(3) Conclusion:

Eff. List, skills important both for the listener and the speaker

Abbreviations		
1	Phy.	----- physically
2	ment.	----- mentally
3	incomptt.	----- incompetent
4	spk.	----- speaker

SECTION B GRAMMAR

10x1 = 10

Award 1 mark for the correct answer.

There is no partial credit

3.1 Modals

(i) had to

(ii) should

3.2 Change the voice

(iii) It is time for the prayer to be said.

(iv) I was made to sing a song by him.

3.3 Articles

(v) a

(vi) an

3.4 Fill in the blanks with correct form of verb

(vii) withdrew

(viii) was

3.5 Identify the part of speech

(ix) Noun

(x) Adverb

3.6 Determiners

(XI) one's

(XII) a few

SECTION C : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (15 marks)

4 NOTICE

5 marks

Format – 1 mark

Box , NOTICE (centre), Heading (Centre), date of issue (aligned left), Signature with designation (bottom left)

- Award full marks if all aspects included.
- Award ½ mark if more than one aspect is missing.
- Award zero mark if more than two aspects are missing.

Content – 3 marks

Suggested value points

- Correct format
- Drawing attention
- Date, time , venue
- inviting the students
- last date

- Line with reference to the undersigned

Accuracy - 1 mark

- Award full marks if there is one or two grammatical/ spelling mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

OR

4 Advertisements

5 marks

Format 1 mark

Box, Heading, content, contact no., address/ email

- Award full marks if all aspects included
- Award ½ mark if more than one aspect is missing.
- Award zero marks if more than two aspects are missing.

Content 3 marks

Suggested value points

- Format
- Catchy phrase
- Qualifications – essential and desirable
- Skills, experience, age etc.

Accuracy - 1 mark

- Award full marks if there is one or two grammatical/ spelling mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

OR

Poster making

Format 1 content 3 Accuracy 1

Title / Topic, catchy slogan, message, Proper spacing, issuing authority etc.

Content 3 marks

- Format
- Say No to Female Foeticide
- Consequences
- Drawing
(any other relevant point)

Accuracy - 1 mark

- Award full marks if there is one or two grammatical/ spelling mistake/ mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

5. Letter**5 marks****Format 1 mark**

Sender's address, date, Receiver's address, subject and salutation/ salutation and subject, complimentary close

Award full marks if all aspects included.

Award 0.5 marks if more than one aspect is missing.

Award zero marks if more than two aspects are missing.

Content 2**Award full marks if**

- All points included (Format , tense , formal tone, vocabulary etc.)
- Well developed with sustained clarity

Award 1.5 marks if

- Almost all points included
- Reasonably well developed

Award 1 mark if

- Some points included
- Fair attempt at developing the ideas

Award 0.5 marks if

- Most of the points not included
- Limited awareness about the task given

Expression 1 mark

Award full marks if

- Tense, tone and vocabulary are appropriate
- Coherence and relevance of ideas

Award 0.5 mark if

- There is little deviation (tense, tone , vocabulary)
- Almost relevant

Accuracy - 1 mark

- Award full marks if there is one or two grammatical/ spelling mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

OR

Content

- Reference to the advertisement
- Bio data
- Formal tone

6 . Report

5 marks

Format 1 mark

Box, Title/ heading, place, date, name of reporter

- Award full marks if all aspects included.
- Award 0.5 marks if more than one aspect is missing.
- Award zero marks if more than two aspects are missing.

Content - 2 marks

Suggested value points

A Report should answer the questions

- What
- Where
- When
- How

Expression 1 mark

Award full marks if

- Tense, tone and vocabulary are appropriate
- Coherence and relevance of ideas

Award 0.5 marks if

- There is a little deviation (tense, tone , vocabulary)
- Almost relevant

Accuracy - 1 mark

- Award full marks if there is one or two grammatical/ spelling mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

OR

Format 1 (Heading/ Title, name of writer, class)

Content 2

Suggested value points

- Beginning, middle and end

- Smartphones have become an inseparable part of life
- High dependency on social media
- Using phones during meals or in the restroom
- Health issues, sleep disruption, mental health
- Social and emotional impact
- Impact on studies, time waster
- Digital detox, self- regulation, alternative activities

(any other relevant point/points)

Expression 1 mark

Award full marks if

- Tense, tone and vocabulary are appropriate
- Coherence and relevance of ideas

Award 0.5 marks if

- There is a little deviation (tense, tone , vocabulary)
- Almost relevant

Accuracy - 1 mark

- Award full marks if there is one or two grammatical/ spelling mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

Section – D (Literature)

Q 7 (A)

(I) (d) The narrator undertook the voyage without preparation

(II) (a) Jonathan

(III) (d) All the statements are true

(IV) (b) His round- the- world voyage

(V) (c) He is a businessman

Q 7 (B)

(I) (d) It is a beautiful place

(II) (d) All are true

(III) (b) Tsetan and the writer were close enough to reach Mount Kailash.

(IV) (b) Gathered

(V) (a) Hor

Q 8 Answer in 120-150 words 1x5 5 marks

Content 3 marks Expression 2 marks (Fluency 1 Grammar 1)

(A) Suggested value points

- Tut's popularity/ famous ancient Egyptian king
- Tomb discovered by Howard Carter in 1922
- Mystery surrounded his life and death, died young
- Earlier examinations had raised questions about possible murder
- A CT scan provide detailed image
- Scientists wanted to know the cause of his death
- His royal status and wealth increased public and scholar's interest.
- Primary reason for selection- historical and scientific
(Any other relevant point/points)

(B) Suggested value points

- Yes, population explosion puts a lot of pressure on natural resources
- It leads to excessive consumption of food, water, energy and land
- Deforestation, pollution
- Greater demand for housing, transportation
- Unemployment, poverty, degradation of environment
- The population increased in a small span of time- 1800 1 billion, 1900 2 billion, 1950 3 billion, 1995 5.7 billion.
- Increases green house gas emission, climate change
- Lack of basic amenities
(Any other relevant point/points)

Q 9 Answer the questions in 20-30 words. 2x4

8 marks

Content 1 mark

Expression 1 mark

(Deduct 0.5 mark for more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes)

(I) suggested value points

- Feed dogs in the village
- Feed birds in the city

(Any other relevant point/points)

(II) Suggested value points

- Voyage was long and challenging
- Needed skilled sailors to handle emergencies
- Share navigation duties

(Any other relevant point/points)

(III) Suggested value points

- To signify the restoration of the old religion/ believed in old religion
- The abandonment of Akhenaten's Aten –centred religious reforms
- Tutankhamun means “ Living image of Amun”

(Any other relevant point/points)

(IV) suggested value points

- Cutting down of trees for firewood has created the shortage of firewood
- It has become very expensive.

(Any other relevant point/points)

(V) Suggested value points

- What course history would have taken if the result of the battle of Panipat had gone the other way?

Q 10 (A)

(I) (c) I wandered lonely as a cloud

(II) (a) The bird's young ones

(III) (c) Statements 1,2, and 3 are true

(IV) (b) The group of goldfinch's young ones

(V) (a) The Laburnum Top Written by Ted Hughes

Q 10 (B)

(I) (c) Personification

(II) (d) All the statements are correct

(III) (b) Land and Sea- Heaven- Earth

(IV) (b) Vividly

(V) (a) Walt Whitman

Q 11 Answer the questions in 30-40 words. 3x2 6 marks

Content 2 marks

Expression 1 mark

(Deduct 0.5 mark for more than two grammatical/ spelling mistakes)

(I) Suggested value points

- The mother had lost her childhood and happy past
- The poet had lost her mother
- Universal experience of loss/ acceptance of life's inevitable losses
(Any other relevant point/points)

(II) Suggested value points

- Adults are not always what they seem
- Talk and preach of love, kindness, and other values but their actions are contradictory
- This realization reveals their hypocrisy.
(Any other relevant point/points)

(III) Suggested value points

- Father's ambition to make his son a man of his choice
- Son's own ambition and world
- No communication/ generation gap

- Father does not like son's profligacy
- Accepts his son with all his virtues and vices
(Any other relevant point/points)

Q 12 Answer any one question in 120-150 words. 1x5

5 marks

Content 3 marks

Expression 2 marks (Fluency 1 Accuracy 1)

(A) Suggested value points

- Mrs. Pearson
- Loving, caring and devoted mother
- Fulfils her responsibilities sincerely
- Neglected by the family
- Learns to stand up for herself
- Develops self-respect and refuses to be taken for granted
- Teaches self-worth, dignity and confidence
- Evolves from a submissive housewife to a confident person

Mrs. Fitzgerald

- She is confident, bold and assertive
- Understands Mrs. Pearson's problems
- Stands up for her rights
- Practical and resourceful
- Leadership qualities
- Believes in equal rights
- Wise, courageous and caring

(Any other relevant point/points)

(B) Suggested value points

- * What the king ordered
- * How it was built
- * Who underwent the trial?

* Who was finally hanged?

* Who became the new king?

Q 13 Answer any three questions in 20-30 word. 3x2 6 marks

Content 1 mark

Expression 1 mark

(I) Suggested value points

- Honesty/integrity/poverty with dignity/ strong family bonds/kind- heartedness
(Any other relevant point/points)

(II) Suggested value points

- A loving and kind and caring mother
- Practical and far sighted
- Courageous and emotional
- War victim
(Any other relevant point/points)

(III) Suggested value points

- Under great emotional stress
- Nervous
- Expecting his first baby after twenty years of marriage
- Had complete faith in Dr. Andrew Manson
(Any other relevant point/points)

(IV) Suggested value points

- Mrs. Pearson's husband/Doris' father/Cyril's father
- Pompy- ompy George
(Any other relevant point/points)