

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

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) (b) greenhouse
- (ii) (a) .03 percent
- (iii) (c) Both I and II are true
- (iv) (c) both 'a' and 'b'
- (v) (a) Carbon dioxide
- (vi) breathe out
- (vii) moderately
- (viii) Photosynthesis
- (ix) Carbon dioxide
- (x) to make their shells

OR

Unseen Passage (B)

- (I) (b) men
- (ii) (d) women

- (iii) (a) I is true II is false
- (iv) (d) just under 47%
- (v) (b) The International Labour Organisation
- (vi) concentrated
- (vii) men
- (viii) 25.51%
- (ix) various
- (x) Women earn just 77 cents for every dollar paid to men.

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

2x1=2

(i) must

(ii) could

(iii) (c) ought to

3.2 Change the narration

2x1 = 2

(i) He asked me where I lived.

(ii) The mother ordered her son to fetch her a glass of water.

(iii) (b) Neetu told Pinkey that she had been doing the dishes.

3.3 Articles

2x1= 2

(i) an

(ii) the

(iii) (c) the

3.4 Change the Voice

2x1 =2

(i) Sweets are contained in this box.

(ii) He was elected president of our club by us.

(iii) (a) A letter is being written by me.

3.5 Tense/ correct form of verb

2x1 =2

(i) was

(ii) do

(iii) (b) are rising

SECTION C : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (13 marks)

4 NOTICE

3 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 – 1 mark

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 mistake/ mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

OR

4 Advertisements

3 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 1 mark

Suggested value points

- Format
- Catchy phrase
- Details of the car model, run, colour etc.
- Selling price

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

OR

Poster making

Format 1 content 1 Accuracy 1

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

Content 1

- Format
- Say No to Alcohol
- Consequences of alcohol addiction
- 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 marks if

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

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

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 mistake/ 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
- Rapid technological advancement, nature of jobs.
- Academic degrees alone are not enough .
- Industries requires skilled workers , reduces unemployment.
- Digital skills, communication and leadership skills
- Empower individuals and strengthen nation
- Practical , professional skills

(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 mistake/ mistakes
- Deduct ½ mark if there are more than two grammatical/spelling mistakes

Literature

7. Partial marks are allowed in this question. Out of the two sub-parts of the question, students are required to attempt one only. Rubrics for grading are given below:

5

Content : 3 marks

Parameters:

All points included.

Well developed with sustained clarity.

Accuracy: 1 mark

Parameter

One or two grammatical/spelling mistake(s).

Expression: 1 mark

Parameter

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

Model Answer:**I. The Last Lesson**

At the beginning of the story, Franz disliked school and was afraid of being scolded for not learning participles. He found studies boring and preferred spending time outdoors. He also took his teacher, M. Hamel, for granted. However, when he came to know that it was the last French lesson because German would now be taught in schools of Alsace and Lorraine, his feelings completely changed. Franz suddenly realized the importance of his language and education. He felt guilty for neglecting his lessons and developed deep respect for M. Hamel, who had served the school faithfully for forty years. M. Hamel's emotional farewell and patriotic feelings deeply touched Franz. By the end of the story, Franz became more mature, responsible, and aware of the value of one's language and culture.

OR

II. Going Places

Sophie is fascinated by Danny Casey because he is a famous young football player and represents success, fame, and a glamorous life that she dreams of achieving. She imagines meeting him, talking to him, and even going on a date with him. Her fascination grows so strong that she begins to believe her own imagination and shares these stories with others.

This fascination reveals that Sophie is highly imaginative and dreamy. She is dissatisfied with her ordinary middle-class life and wants to escape reality through fantasies. Unlike her practical brother Geoff, Sophie lives in a world of dreams and unrealistic hopes. Her obsession with Danny Casey highlights the theme of adolescent fantasies and the gap between dreams and reality in the story.

8. The answer to these questions should be about 30-40 words long. Partial Credit is allowed.

3×4=12

Content : 2 marks

Parameters:

All points included.

Well developed with sustained clarity.

Accuracy: 1 mark

Parameter

One or two grammatical/spelling mistake(s).

Model answer:

I. Saheb looks for gold in the garbage dumps because his family is very poor and rag-picking helps them earn money for survival. Sometimes they find useful items or coins in the garbage, which gives them hope and excitement.

This shows that Saheb's life is full of poverty, hardship, and lack of opportunities. Instead of going to school and enjoying childhood, he is forced to work to support his family. His condition reflects the miserable lives of poor children trapped in child labour.

II. Douglas overcame his fear of water with the help of a trained instructor. The instructor made him practise swimming step by step, teaching him how to breathe, float, and move his legs and arms correctly. Gradually, Douglas gained confidence and learned to swim properly.

To completely remove his fear, he even swam alone in different waters like lakes and pools. In this way, determination, courage, and continuous practice helped him conquer his fear of water.

III. The peddler signed himself as "Captain von Stahle" because the ironmaster had mistaken him for his old regimental friend, Captain von Stahle. After receiving kindness, respect, and hospitality from Edla Willmansson, the peddler was deeply moved and decided to change himself. By signing the name, he showed that Edla's compassion had transformed him into a better human being.

IV. Gandhiji helped the peasants of Champaran by fighting against the injustice of the British landlords who forced farmers to grow indigo under the tinkathia system. He gathered information about their sufferings and protested peacefully. Due to his efforts, an official inquiry was conducted and the landlords had to return part of the money taken from the peasants. Gandhiji also taught the peasants courage and self-confidence.

V. The author calls Gemini Studios a "very national integration" because people from different regions, languages, and backgrounds worked together there. Employees from various parts of India cooperated in filmmaking despite cultural differences. This created a feeling of unity in diversity, which reflects the spirit of national integration.

VI. Umberto Eco says this because he considered himself primarily an academic scholar and professor. Writing novels was not his main profession but something he did in his free time for pleasure. Since he wrote creatively during leisure time, he humorously described himself as a university professor who writes novels on Sundays.

9. Partial marks are allowed for the following questions. A student has to attempt any 5 from the given questions.

Content: 1 mark

Accuracy and Expression: 1 mark

Model Answer:

I.The poet feared losing her mother because she looked weak, pale, and old. This reminded the poet of death and separation.

II.By “Keeping Quiet,” the poet means remaining silent and calm for a moment to reflect on our actions and create peace among people.

III.A beautiful thing gives permanent happiness and peace. Its beauty never fades from our minds and continues to inspire us.

IV.The roadside stand owners hope that city people will stop and buy their goods so that they can earn money and improve their poor condition.

V.The tigers are fearless, bold, and confident, whereas Aunt Jennifer is weak, nervous, and burdened by her married life.

VI.The poet says this because the Earth appears inactive in winter but later becomes full of life again, teaching us the value of silence and self-reflection.

VII.The poet smiled to hide her sadness and fear of separation from her mother and to give her reassurance and comfort.

10. Partial marks are allowed in this question. Out of the two sub-parts of the question, students are required to attempt one only. Rubrics for grading are given below: 5

Content : 3 marks

Parameter

All points included.

Well developed with sustained clarity.

Accuracy: 1 mark

Parameter

One or two grammatical/spelling mistake(s).

Expression: 1 mark

Parameter

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

Model Answer:

I. At the time of the Tiger King's birth, astrologers predicted that he would die because of a tiger. Deeply affected by this prophecy, the Maharaja decided to kill all the tigers in his kingdom to avoid his fate. He became famous as the "Tiger King" after killing ninety-nine tigers. However, he could not find the hundredth tiger and finally arranged a wooden tiger toy for his son.

One day, while playing with the wooden tiger, a tiny splinter pierced the Maharaja's hand. The wound became infected, and despite an operation, he died. Thus, even though a real tiger did not kill him, the prediction came true through the wooden tiger. The story highlights irony, fate, and the foolish pride of the king.

OR

II. "Memories of Childhood" highlights the social inequalities of caste discrimination and racial discrimination through the experiences of Zitkala-Sa and Bama.

Zitkala-Sa suffered racial discrimination in her school, where Native American children were forced to follow foreign customs. She strongly opposed the cutting of her long hair because it was against her culture and tradition. On the other hand, Bama experienced caste discrimination in India. She was shocked to see a lower-caste man treated disrespectfully by an upper-caste landlord. Her brother explained that people of their community were considered inferior because of caste.

Both writers felt hurt and angry due to injustice in society. Their experiences reveal how discrimination destroys human dignity and creates inequality.

11. Partial marks are allowed for the following questions. A student has to attempt any 5 from the given questions.

2×3=6

Content: 1 mark

Accuracy and Expression: 1 mark

Model Answer:

I. Charley wanted to visit Galesburg of 1894 because he considered it a peaceful and pleasant place compared to the stress and insecurity of the modern world. He believed life in the past was simpler, calmer, and free from worries like wars and fear. His desire reflects his wish to escape from the pressures of modern life.

II. Antarctica is important because it preserves the history of Earth in its ice layers and geological formations. It helps scientists understand climate change, the evolution of Earth, and the effects of global warming. Since Antarctica has remained largely untouched, it serves as a perfect place for scientific research about the planet's past and future.

III. Dr. Sadao decided to treat the wounded American soldier because his duty as a doctor and his human values were stronger than his hatred for the enemy nation. Even though Japan and America were at war, he could not leave a badly injured man to die. His decision shows his kindness, humanity, and professional ethics.

IV. Geoff was practical, quiet, and realistic, whereas Sophie was imaginative and dreamy. Geoff spoke little and understood the realities of life, while Sophie lived in a world of fantasies and unrealistic dreams. Their different personalities highlight the contrast between reality and imagination.

V. Mr. Lamb has a positive and accepting attitude towards life. Despite his disability, he does not isolate himself or feel bitter. Instead, he enjoys simple pleasures like sitting in his garden and talking to people. He believes that life should be lived fully without fear or self-pity.

His attitude inspires Derry to overcome his inferiority complex and look at life with hope. Mr. Lamb represents optimism and teaches that physical disability is not a barrier to enjoying life.

12. No marks should be awarded for partial answers in MCQs. All MCQs have a single correct answer.

1×4=4

I. C. Because of a prophecy that a tiger would cause his death

II. C. A boutique owner or actress

III. C. He followed his duty as a doctor and humanity

IV. C. He feels insecure about his burned face