Series : MNL2K **SET~2**

Q.P. Code 2/2/2

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

ENGLISH
(Language and Literature)

*Time allowed : **3** hours* *Maximum Marks : **80***

	NOTE :
(I)	Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.
(II)	Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
(III)	Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
(IV)	**Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**
(V)	15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

General Instructions :

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

(i) *This question paper comprises **11** questions. All questions are compulsory.*

(ii) *The question paper contains **three** sections :*
***Section A** – Reading Skills*
***Section B** – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills*
***Section C** – Literature*

(iii) *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

SECTION A
Reading Skills

20 marks

1. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) In the fast-evolving landscape of the present age, digital saturation and algorithmically curated lives, the phenomenon of FOMO — the Fear of Missing Out — has progressed from a fleeting psychological discomfort into a pervasive cultural condition. Initially, the term was coined to describe the anxiety provoked by the perception that others are participating in rewarding experiences from which one is absent. FOMO now pervades virtually in every dimension of contemporary existence, fuelled largely by the continuous updates of edited content on social media platforms. Significantly, it is the anxiety that others are experiencing something more fulfilling, exciting, or meaningful.

(2) The roots of FOMO lie in the interplay between the evolutionary instincts of an individual and modern technology. It may be traced as a fundamental human trait — the innate desire to belong. Man — being a social creature naturally, always tries to seek inclusion and belonging as a means of survival. Albeit, nowadays social media has escalated this instinct by bothering individuals with real-time updates of others' lives — carefully edited vacations, career milestones or even temporal joys framed as extraordinary. Each notification becomes a reminder of what we are not doing, a mirror reflecting our perceived inadequacies.

(3) FOMO is not solely a personal affliction; it is a cultural artifact also, shaped by the values of a society that equates busyness with worth and novelty with happiness. Moreover, consumerism fuels this fire with brands exploiting FOMO through limited time offers, exclusive events, and influencer-driven trends that promise belonging or status. The rise of the 'experience economy', where memories and moments are commodified, intensifies the pressure to participate in everything from music festivals to viral food craze.

(4) Furthermore, FOMO has created profound shifts in behaviour also. Due to this, the decision-making process has become increasingly worrisome, with people hesitating to commit to plans for fear of a better alternative emerging later. It often leads to impulsive choices, such as overspending on unnecessary products, overcommitting to events or making hasty life decisions to avoid feeling excluded. People, due to FOMO, struggle to focus on their priorities because they are distracted by what others are doing. Even highlighted reels of professional journeys shared online by others breed discontent and cause anxiety and dissatisfaction, where no experience feels complete.

(5) The gloomy side of FOMO manifests in lowered self-esteem, impaired concentration and in severe cases, depression. Ironically, the more one tries to engage with multiple activities to 'keep up', the greater it leads to emotional exhaustion. The illusion of missing out on something 'better' elsewhere robs individuals of their ability to engage themselves fully in their present experiences.

(6) To overcome the Fear of Missing Out we require intentional strategies. To avoid constant comparison, specific timings for checking the apps and social media should be set. One can also engage oneself in mindful breathing or meditation to stay grounded to the present. By prioritizing self-awareness and authentic experiences, one can take the edge off FOMO's grip and cultivate a richer, more satisfying life without chasing external validation. Finally, we need to recognize that carefully selected online portrayals, which are essentially selective, generate emotional resilience.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What is the primary psychological trigger behind FOMO in the context of social media usage ? *1*

Paragraph (1)

(A) physical fatigue

(B) fear of rejection from loved ones

(C) need of privacy to keep oneself safe

(D) fear of being left out of rewarding experiences

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given below : *1*

FOMO has entered every dimension of a person's existence because _____.

(A) more exciting events are taking place nowadays

(B) of constant edits and updates on the social media platforms

Paragraph (1)

(iii) What is the impact of the 'experience economy' on individuals ? *1*

Paragraph (3)

(iv) How does FOMO affect an individual's decision-making ability ? *2*

Paragraph (4)

(v) Support the writer's viewpoint that FOMO leads to emotional consequences. Paragraph (4) *1*

(vi) List two effective ways to deal with Fear of Missing Out (FOMO). *2*

Paragraph (6)

(vii) State whether the following statement is True or False : *1*

People need to make an effort to come out of their FOMO state of mind. Paragraph (6)

(viii) Complete the following with the correct option from the ones given below. *1*

In the phrase 'generate emotional resilience', the word 'resilience' refers to the ability to Paragraph (6)

(A) support and create more social content.

(B) withstand emotional anxiety of FOMO.

(C) accelerate the notifications on social media.

(D) give in to digital social pressure.

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) The craze for cosmetics has escalated globally, driven by evolving beauty standards and social media influence. The cosmetics industry thrives on innovation, offering various products catering to various skin types and preferences. In India, the cosmetics industry has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past decade, driven by rising 'disposable incomes', increased urbanization, and changing lifestyles. In contemporary times, people are more aware about their personal grooming.

(2) In the year 2024, the Indian cosmetics market generated revenue of approximately ₹ 1,34,000 crore and is projected to reach around ₹ 2,40,000 crore by 2028. This robust performance is driven as a result of strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings due to increasing awareness of personal grooming, skin care routines among consumers, especially teenagers and young adults, who are the dominant demographic in cosmetics purchase, as they seek trendy and innovative solutions.

(3) The cosmetics industry is broadly divided into various segments such as skin care, hair care, colour cosmetics, fragrances, and personal hygiene products. Skincare leads the segments, accounting for nearly 35% of the market, followed by hair care at 25%. Colour cosmetics — including make-up products have seen significant growth, especially post-pandemic, due to the rise of e-commerce and social media. E-commerce platforms have played a crucial role in expanding access to cosmetics especially in Tier II and Tier III cities. In fact, online sales contribute to around 25% of total cosmetics sales in India.

(4) Over and above that, men's grooming has emerged as a significant segment, valued at around ₹ 25,000 crore in the year 2024 with increasing demand for beard care, skin care and fragrances customized to men. This growth is fuelled by social media influencers, coupled with the increase of gender-neutral cosmetic formulations. This shows an aspirational pursuit of personal refinement, where appearance augments confidence, dismantling archaic stereotypes associated with male cosmetics consumption.

(5) Though the cosmetics industry plays a vital role in the Indian economy, it faces several challenges including managing intense competition, complying with regulations, ensuring product quality, and addressing ethical sourcing concerns. In addition, the industry struggles with copied products, adapting to changing consumer preferences and navigating the complexities of the supply chain.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Complete the sentence with a reason :

The global demand for beauty products has intensified because of _____. *1*

Paragraph (1)

(ii) What does the phrase 'thrives on innovation' tell us about the cosmetic industry ? *1*

(A) The industry is slow-growing.

(B) The industry is growing and evolving by the day.

(C) The industry is becoming popular in rural areas.

(D) The industry is gradually becoming more expensive.

Paragraph (1)

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that the cosmetics industry is anticipated to grow. *1*

Paragraph (2)

(iv) Given that teenagers and young adults form the primary group for cosmetics purchases, what are the key factors that shape their buying decisions ? *1*

Paragraph (2)

(v) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below. Paragraph (2) *1*

Assertion : The Indian cosmetics market generated a profit of approximately ₹ 1,34,000 crore in 2024.

Reason : It became possible due to strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings.

(A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is ***not*** the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(vi) How has the rise of e-commerce platforms impacted the revenue of the Indian cosmetics industry ? Explain in 30 – 40 words. Paragraph (3) *1*

(vii) Based on your understanding of Paragraph (3), fill in the blank with suitable options : *1*

The skincare segment currently dominates the Indian cosmetics industry. Currently its share is _____ (20%, 25%, 35%) approximately.

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably. *1*

That men's grooming has increased the demand for gender-neutral cosmetic formulations symbolizes _____. Paragraph (4)

(ix) Mention any two major challenges faced by the cosmetics industry at present. Paragraph (5) *2*

SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills *20 marks*

Grammar

3. Complete any ***ten*** of the following twelve tasks, as directed. *10×1=10*

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a report. *1*

The group _____ (walk) for hours through forests and hills in Mexico before it reached the barbed wire fence, marking the boundary of the forest.

(ii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option given in the brackets : *1*

_____ (Several/Both/All) people attended the convention because the entry was open to all at a very nominal fee.

(iii) Read the given sentence from a story, identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. *1*

The farmer told his sons that he had hidden a treasure in the fields but he had forget the actual place.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	*Correction*

(iv) Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence : *1*

Harry : Good morning Bobby, how do you do ?

Bobby : Quite well, thank you; but these are hard times.

Harry wished Bobby good morning and enquired about his well-being. Bobby thanked him and said that he was quite well, but remarked _____.

(v) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below : *1*

I don't know what it is. It feel like an incredibly lucky day for me.

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	don't	doesn't
(B)	is	have
(C)	feel	feels
(D)	lucky	luckily

(vi) Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the dialogue given below : *1*

Sahil said to Shekhar, "Which are your books ?"

(A) Sahil asked Shekhar which his books were.

(B) Sahil asked Shekhar which books are yours.

(C) Sahil asked Shekhar which has been his books.

(D) Sahil asked Shekhar which are his books.

(vii) Complete the given sentence with the correct form of the verb by selecting the correct option : *1*

A case _____ against the unidentified truck driver for causing damage to the street poles due to negligence and rash driving.

(A) was registered

(B) is register

(C) have been registered

(D) may registered

(viii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option from the brackets : *1*

Anita _____ (ought to/would/have to) likely complete the project on time as her team is collaborating effectively.

(ix) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in a hair salon's instruction manual : *1*

All tools and frequently touched surfaces must be disinfect after each client's treatment.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	*Correction*

(x) Suhani and Sneha decided to purchase books to focus on 'Reading Skills' in their summer vacations. *1*

Report the question asked by Suhani to Sneha.

Which books are we going to purchase today from the Book Fest ?

Suhani asked Sneha _____.

(xi) Replace the underlined word used in the sentence with the best option given below : *1*

Since Sheenam study diligently for months, she will clear the competitive exam.

(A) studying

(B) was studied

(C) has been studying

(D) have been studied

(xii) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence. *1*

True tradition is not in celebrations, but in the culture we carries forward.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	*Correction*

Creative Writing Skills

Note : *All details presented in the questions in the writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.*

4. Attempt any ***one*** from (a) and (b) given below in about 120 words : *5*

(a) You are Ishita/Ishit, Head Librarian of Happy Children's School, Adamshahr. You have observed that the students in your school have poor reading habits. Write a letter to the editor, highlighting the declining interest among children in reading. Emphasize on the importance of inculcating good reading habits. Draw attention to the benefits of reading, along with certain suggestive measures to encourage the culture of reading.

OR

(b) You are Shivi/Shiva of Phase-II, Maya Vihar, Vayutown. Your Class X board exams are over and you want to join the Table Tennis Academy to pursue your interest in the game. Write a letter to the Director of Tinkering Table Tennis Academy to enquire about the procedure of admission, timings, duration, fees, and other relevant details.

5. Attempt any ***one*** from (a) and (b) given below in about 120 words : *5*

(a) Read the given details of the school activities that help children in their personality development.

- student councils, clubs
- activities in the Morning Assembly
- celebration of important days
- organization of various competitions
- sports and academic activities

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph about the impact of school activities on students. Focus on factors like fosters leadership, responsibility, communication skills, discipline, daily motivation, and team building.

OR

(b) Read the following details about fashion trends.

In today's world, fashion is not just about clothes, it is driven by images and impressions. Fashion trends provide a powerful reflection of society's evolution, and creativity. Write an analytical paragraph about how the factors mentioned below have shaped the fashion trends in recent years with key causes, effects and future implications.

- creative expression
- social media influence
- celebrity endorsements
- blend of traditional and modern styles
- commercialization of festivals
- customized fashion choices
- rising e-commerce

SECTION C

Literature *40 marks*

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *5*

(a) Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud. We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

(Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) Which of the following options justifies the statement made by Mandela, "We, who were outlaws …" ? *1*

(A) The international leaders who came to attend the ceremony

(B) Due to Apartheid, many countries broke diplomatic relations with South Africa

(C) The Commonwealth countries and their people

(D) The people who fought in the Anglo-Boer War

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately :

Mandela thanked all the distinguished international guests because _____. *1*

(iii) In the above lines, Mandela mentions 'extraordinary human disaster'. What is the significance of this phrase in his speech ? *2*

(iv) The tone of Mandela in the above excerpt is : *1*

1. unifying
2. determined
3. aggressive
4. pessimistic
5. hopeless

Select the correct option :

(A) 1, 2 and 4
(B) 2 and 4
(C) 1 and 2
(D) 4 and 5

OR

(b) "Richard was competitive," Mr. Weiherer continued, "but not in a bad sense." He explained, "Richard wasn't interested in winning for winning's sake or winning to get a prize. Rather, he was winning because he wanted to do the best job he could. For the right reasons, he wants to be the best." And that is one of the ingredients in the making of a scientist. Start with a first-rate mind, add curiosity, and mix in the will to win for the right reasons. Ebright has these qualities.

(The Making of a Scientist)

(i) In light of the excerpt, what can we infer about Richard from Mr. Weiherer's statement, "Richard was competitive, but not in a bad sense" ? *1*

(ii) Mention the 'ingredients' which are necessarily required in the making of a scientist. *2*

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets : *1*

Mr. Weiherer suggests that Richard was _____. (lethargic/persistent)

(iv) As per the above excerpt, what is ***not true*** about Ebright ? Select the correct option. *1*

(A) strongly curious
(B) bright minded
(C) competitive spirit
(D) irrational

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ***one*** of the given two, (a) or (b) : *5*

(a) Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus:
Hyenas come with merry smiles;
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.
The true Chameleon is small,
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing.
If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see.

(How to Tell Wild Animals)

(i) How does the poet describe the crocodile's tears ? Choose the correct option : *1*

(A) genuine and heartfelt

(B) joyful and sincere

(C) false and deceptive

(D) cold and indifferent

(ii) What confusion will a newcomer face while distinguishing between a hyena and a crocodile, as described humorously by the poet in the above extract ? *1*

(iii) Mention any two characteristics of a chameleon on the basis of the given extract. *2*

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in the brackets : *1*

The tone of the poet in the above lines is _____ (playful and humorous/serious and confused).

OR

(b) Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

I thought I told you to clean your shoes, Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

(Amanda!)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately : *1*

Amanda wants to be an orphan because _____.

(ii) What does the image of Amanda "roaming barefoot in the dusty street" signify ? *2*

(iii) Amanda's tone while imagining herself as an orphan is : *1*

(A) excited

(B) fearful

(C) angry

(D) peaceful

(iv) What does the speaker do on the dust ? *1*

8. Answer any ***four*** of the following five questions in 40 – 50 words each : *4×3=12*

(i) In what ways do the symbols of 'Fire' and 'Ice' in the poem 'Fire and Ice' serve as metaphors for opposing human impulses ? How do they contribute to the exploration of destructive capabilities of human beings ?

(ii) What was the last task assigned to Anne Frank by Mr. Keesing due to her habit of talking and how does she show her ingenuity to answer it ?

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

(iii) Mention the transition in the baker's costume from the Portuguese days to that of the author's childhood.

(Glimpses of India : A Baker from Goa)

(iv) In the statement, "When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle," which spectacle is the author referring to ? Elucidate.

(Mijbil the Otter)

(v) What sacrifices did Valli have to make in order to save enough money for fulfilling her long-cherished desire and how do these sacrifices reflect her strong will power ?

(Madam Rides the Bus)

9. Answer any ***two*** of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each : *2×3=6*

(i) Why does Hari Singh find it pleasant to work for Anil, though he was a thief ?

(The Thief's Story)

(ii) How does Matilda face 'the horrible life of necessity' ?

(The Necklace)

(iii) The teacher built up Bholi's confidence on her first day at school. Discuss.

(Bholi)

10. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : *6*

(a) How do Lencho in 'A Letter to God' and Kisa Gotami in 'The Sermon at Benares' respond to their experiences of suffering and loss ? How did they overcome their respective losses ?

OR

(b) How does the contrast between the pilot's fear in 'The Black Aeroplane' and Custard's initial cowardice in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' highlight that courage can be found in the most unexpected characters when circumstances demand it ? Discuss with reference to the two.

11. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words : *6*

(a) How does Dr. Herriot's approach to treat Tricki reflect his deep understanding of the animal's needs and bring to the fore the character traits of patience, observation and empathy in 'A Triumph of Surgery' ? Discuss.

OR

(b) The Martians, despite their advanced technology, are outsmarted by their own ignorance and an old book of rhymes. Comment with reference to 'The Book that Saved the Earth'.

Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
(For Internal and Restricted use only)
Secondary School Examination, 2026 (Xth)
SUBJECT NAME: English Language and Literature)
(Q.P. CODE /Set No 184/2-2-2)

General Instructions: -

1	You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2	**"Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in Newspaper/Website, etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC."**
3	Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one's own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on latest information or knowledge and/or are innovative, they may be assessed for their correctness otherwise and due marks be awarded to them. In Class-X, while evaluating two competency-based questions, please try to understand given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is enumerated by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.**
4	The Marking scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, the due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5	The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zero after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6	Evaluators will mark (√) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer CROSS 'X' be marked. Evaluators will not put right (✓) while evaluating which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7	If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totaled up and written in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may be followed strictly.
8	If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may also be followed strictly.

9	If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note **"Extra Question"**.
10	No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
11	A full scale of marks _____ (example 0 to 80/70/60/50/40/30 marks as given in Question Paper) has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
12	Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e., 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).This is in view of the reduced syllabus and number of questions in question paper.
13	Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past :- ● Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book. ● Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it. ● Wrong totaling of marks awarded on an answer. ● Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page. ● Wrong question wise totaling on the title page. ● Wrong totaling of marks of the two columns on the title page. ● Wrong grand total. ● Marks in words and figures not tallying/not same. ● Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list. ● Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark is correctly and clearly indicated. It should merely be a line. Same is with the X for incorrect answer.) ● Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
14	While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks.
15	Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totaling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions be followed meticulously and judiciously.
16	The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the "**Guidelines for Spot Evaluation**" before starting the actual evaluation.
17	Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totaled and written in figures and words.
18	The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners/Additional Head Examiners/Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per value points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

MARKING SCHEME
ENGLISH (Language and Literature) (Subject Code-184)
(PAPER CODE: 2/2/2)

Q.No.	EXPECTED OUTCOMES/VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION – A (Reading Skills)	**20 Marks**
	1. PASSAGE I	**10 marks**
(i)	(D) Fear of being left out of rewarding experiences.	1
(ii)	(B) Of constant edits and updates on social media platforms.	1
(iii)	**(Any one)** • Intensifies pressure to participate in everything from music festivals to viral food craze. • Memories and moments are commodified	1
(iv)	**(Any Two)** • Hesitate to commit to plans due to fear of better alternative emerging later. • Impulsive choice such as overspreading, overcommitting to events. • Hasty decisions to avoid feeling excluded • Struggle to focus on their priorities • Causes anxiety and dissatisfaction.	2
(v)	**(Any One)** • Dissatisfaction • Anxiety • Breeds discontent • Fear of commitment • Impulsive behavior • Distraction • Overcommitting	1
(vi)	**(Any Two)** • By setting specific timings for checking apps and social media. • Mindful breathing or meditation. • Prioritizing self-awareness and authentic experiences. • Avoids constant comparison • Not chasing external validation • Generate emotional resilience	2

(vii) True 1

(viii) (B) Withstand emotional anxiety of FOMO 1

2. PASSAGE 2 **10 marks**

(i) **(Any One)**
- Evolving beauty standards
- Social media influence
- Awareness about personal grooming 1

(ii) (B) The industry is growing and evolving by the day 1

(iii) Projected 1

(iv) **(Any one)** 1
- Increasing awareness of personal grooming
- Skin care routines among consumers
- Trendy and innovation solutions/demand for organic and premium products.

(v) (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion

OR

(D) The Assertion is False but the Reason is True 1

(vi) **(Any One)**
- Played crucial role in expanding access to cosmetics especially in Tier II and Tier III cities.
- Online sale contribute around 25% of total cosmetic sale in India. 1

(vii) 35% 1

(viii) **(Any One)**
- An aspirational pursuit of refinement enhancing self-confidence.
- Dismantling archaic stereotypes 1

(ix) **(Any Two)**
- Intense competition
- Complying with regulations
- Ensuring product quality
- Changing consumer preferences

- Addressing ethical sourcing concern
- Complexity of supply chain
- Copied products 2

SECTION – B 20

(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)

3. Complete ANY Ten of the following twelve tasks as directed: (10x1=10)

Full credit – 1 mark for correct answer. No Partial credit

(i) Walked/had been walking/had walked 1

(ii) Several 1

(iii) 1

Error	Correction
Forget	Forgotten

(iv) that those were hard times 1

(v) (C) ERROR- Feel CORRECTION- feels 1

(vi) (A) Sahil asked Shekhar which his books were. 1

(vii) (A) was registered 1

(viii) would 1

(ix) 1

Error	Correction
Disinfect	Disinfected

(x) which books they were going to purchase that day from the book fest/
which books they were going to purchase from the book fest that day. 1

(xi) (C) has been studying 1

(xii) 1

Error	Correction
Carries	Carry

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS **10 marks**

4. Letter writing – Attempt ANY ONE from (a) and (b) given below: **5**

- ❖ **Content – 2 marks (Any four value points from the headers)**
- ❖ **Format – 1 mark**

- **No mark for format alone if content is irrelevant or missing**
- **Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned**
- **Partial credit of ½ mark if one or two aspects are missing**
- **No credit if more than two aspects are missing**

- ❖ **Organisation of ideas – 1 mark(effective style, orderly sequence, paragraph structure, formal tone and vocabulary**
- ❖ **Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)**
  - **½ mark to be deducted if there are three or more spelling errors.**

a. Value points : **2+1+1+1**

(At least four points, two from each aspect)

• Poor reading habit
• Social Media
• Low attention span
• Too many distractions
• Busy time schedule of parents and children

Suggestions:

• Encourage peer reading
• Discussion on book review
• Gifting books on special occasions
• Organising reading challenges
(Any other relevant points)

OR

b. Value points : **2+1+1+1**

(At least four points)

- Admission process
- Timing, Duration
- Fee structure
- Training facilities

- Information regarding coaches
  (Any other relevant point)

5. Analytical Paragraph- Attempt ANY ONE from (a) and (b) given below: 5

❖ **Content – 2 marks**

- **Full credit of 2 marks will be awarded if a minimum of four trends/points which are included in the question, are duly analyzed and synthesized.**
- **Partial credit of 1 mark will be awarded if only two value points are included.**

❖ **Organisation of Ideas – 2 marks**

- **Effective style, orderly sequence, single paragraph structure, formal tone and functional vocabulary**
- **Linking words and phrases/cohesive devices such as however, in addition to, therefore, in contrast to should be included.**

❖ **Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)**

- **½ mark to be deducted if there are three or more spelling errors.**

a. Value Points : 2+2+1

- Student councils
- Activities in morning assembly
- Celebration of important days
- Organization of various competitions
- Sports and academic activities
- School Activities foster leadership qualities, responsibility, communication skills
- Also fosters discipline, daily motivation and team building

OR

b. Value Points: 2+2+1

- Creative expression
- Social media influence
- Celebrity endorsements
- Blend of traditional and modern style
- Customized fashion choices
- Rising e – commerce

SECTION - C
LITERATURE TEXT BOOK 40 MARKS

6. Read the following extracts and answers the questions for any one of the two (a) or (b): 5 marks

a.

(i) (B) Due to Apartheid, many countries broke diplomatic relations with South Africa 1

(ii) They supported them to fight against racial discrimination or apartheid/ They joined the ceremony

(Any other relevant point) 1

(iii) **(Any two)**

- Refers to racial discrimination/apartheid that lasted too long
- Suffered oppressions
- They were denied of basic rights and freedom
- Makes an emphatic statement.
- To draw attention towards 'disaster' (apartheid)

(Any other relevant point) 2

(iv) (C) 1 and 2 1

OR

b. (i) **(Any one)**

- Richard had a strong desire to win not for the sake of fame, money or to undermine others.
- His competitiveness was genuine which shows his passion in science and desire to do best work. 1

(ii) **(Any two)**

- A first rate mind
- Strong curiosity
- Strong will to excel
- Determination

(Any other relevant point) 2

(iii) Persistent 1

(iv) (D) irrational 1

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two (a) or (b): 5 marks

a. (i) (C) False and deceptive 1

(ii) Both are described humorously - the hyena appears to laugh or smile whereas the crocodile may appear crying. 1

(iii) **(Any two)**

- Small like a lizard
- Doesn't have ears or wings
- Changes colour and blends itself according to the background.
  (Any other relevant point) 2

(iv) Playful and humorous 1

OR

b. (i) She is continuously nagged by her mother/she wants to be free/ tired of nagging
(Any other relevant point) 1

(ii) **(Any two)**

- Desire or longing for freedom
- Freedom from rules and discipline
- No one to nag and correct her
- Wants to enjoy her childhood

(Any other relevant point) 2

(iii) (A) Excited 1

(iv) She is making patterns with her feet on the soft dust. 1

8. Answer any four of the following five questions in 40 – 50 words each: (4x3=12)

- **Content – 2 marks (at least 2 value points)**
- **Expression – 1 mark (effective style, coherence and cohesion)**

(i) (At least one value point for each aspect) (1+1 for content) 2+1

- Fire – symbolizes desire
- Leading to greed, lust fury and these emotions if uncontrolled or unchecked may lead to destruction.

- Ice – symbolizes hatred
- It leads to indifference, coldness and rigidity causing detached feelings. If they are neglected may lead to destruction.

(Any other relevant point)

(ii) (At least two value points- one from each aspect) (1+1 for content) 2+1

- Last task – Essay on Quack ! Quack ! Quack ! said mistress chatterbox
- Wrote in verse form
- Made it a poem about duck family
- Showed the necessity of talking

(Any other relevant point)

(iii) (1+1 for content) 2+1

- During Portuguese days peculiar dress known as kabai, a single piece frock
- In author's childhood trousers, shorter than full lengths and longer than half pants and shirt

(iv) (Any two) 2+1

- Complete silence in the box
- Dried blood stains on the airholes and chinks around the lid
- When author opened, it, found Mijbil exhausted and blood splattered
- Torn the lining of the box into shreds

(Any other relevant point)

(v) (At least one point from each aspect) (1+1 for content) 2+1

- Restricted temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons.
- Saved whatever stray coins came her way
- Stifled her desire to go on merry go round at village fair.
- Sacrifices made by her show her determination to have a bus ride
- Planned and did everything she could do
- Shows her maturity to deal with the things

(Any other relevant point)

9. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each: (2x3=6)

- **Content – 2 marks (at least 2 value points)**
- **Expression – 1 mark (effective style, coherence and cohesion)**

(i) (Any two points) 2+1

- Because Anil was a kind, gentle and trusting person

- Showed affection, made him comfortable (even though Hari Singh didn't know how to cook)
- Never suspected, never rebuked (even when he stole/pilfered from him daily)
- Did not burden him with too much work
- Taught him how to read and write

(Any other relevant point)

(ii) (Any two points) 2+1

- Dreamed of luxury and riches
- Faced extreme poverty due to loss of necklace
- For repaying heavy debt had to do all the household chores (cleaned utensils, washed clothes and floors, fetched water from the streets, shopped at cheap markets, bargained for every coin)
- She became the woman of the street
- Continuous hard work ruined her beauty

(Any other relevant point)

(iii) (Any two points) 2+1

- Suffered neglect and rejection from parents and siblings
- Encouragement of teacher made her confident/ enabled her to speak made her confident
- Praised her small efforts
- Gave her assurances- promised her no one will mock her again
- The teacher gave her books and talked very soothingly/gently

(Any other relevant point)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words: 6 marks

- **Content – 3 marks (Any Three Points duly supported by relevant textual evidence)**
- **Expression – 2 marks (effective style, coherence and cohesion, using a balanced comparison and synthesis of the two aspects/texts)**
- **Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)**

(a) (Any three points– at least one point must be included from each lesson/aspect like their suffering, grief and loss) 3+2+1

A Letter to God (Lencho)

- Poor farmer, dependent on crops for survival
- Corn fields destroyed by hailstorm, ruined him and left his family on the verge of starvation

- Responds with unshakable faith in God
- Asks for 100 pesos to survive, when receives less money than requested, still believed God helped him
- Suspects the post office employees-shows his blind faith in God

Sermon at Benares (Kisa Gotami):

- Kisa Gotami's only son died
- Refuses to accept death
- Went to Buddha to seek cure
- But then realized that death is inevitable to all

Synthesis :

- Both suffered great loss
- Lencho's loss is material
- Kisa Gotami's loss is emotional
- But ultimately both try to come out of their loss / grief in their own way.
- Lencho overcomes his loss through strong faith and hope in God
- Kisa Gotami overcomes her loss by gaining wisdom and acceptance through understanding the reality of human life/ Lets go of her attachment.

(Any other relevant point)

OR

(b) ANY ONE points from each lesson and at least one contrast point : 3+2+1

The Black Aeroplane (Pilot)

- Pilot was confident but when saw black clouds panicked at first
- Then kept on flying
- Showed his determination
- Reveals his inner strength
- Mystery of black aeroplane provides him hope and guidance

The Tale of Custard the Dragon (Custard)

- Used to think of himself as a coward
- Real danger comes when the pirate attacked
- Fought bravely
- Saved and surprised everyone

- Perceived a true hero than a coward
- Unexpected courage and strength of custard was revealed, when everyone panicked

Contrast:

- Both faced unexpected danger
- But dealt courageously in their respective situations
- Both show their inner and true strength when faced danger
- Ultimately saved themselves from their predicaments

(Any other relevant point)

11. Answer any one of the following two questions in 100 – 200 words: (6x1=6)

- **Content – 3 marks (Any Three Points duly supported by relevant textual evidence)**
- **Expression – 2 marks (effective style, coherence and cohesion)**
- **Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)**

(a) (Any three points) 3+2+1

- Feels pity for Tricki's condition
- Takes immediate action to help, when it falls ill
- Shows deep care for animals
- Understands actual cause of Tricki's illness is over feeding
- Uses simple and practical methods , avoids unnecessary medicine
- Controls diet, provides plenty of exercise
- Keeps under observation, watched every movement
- Wants to cure Tricki naturally
- Deals gently with Mrs. Pumphery, reassures her through letters
- His patience, observations and empathy ensure Tricki's full recovery.

(Any other relevant point)

OR

(b) (Any three points) 3+2+1

- Martians possess spaceships and advanced technology but terrified by books of Nursery Rhymes.
- Think Tank thinks of himself as a powerful being
- He shows arrogance but lacks intellectual ability
- True strength of the earthlings lie in their intellectual ability, creativity and imagination
- The author uses irony through the character of the Think Tank

- The way Martian decipher the book of nursery rhymes
- Though the book was for amusement but seen dangerous and powerful by Martians
- Think human beings are very intelligent and powerful though they were actually unaware of the Martian invasion

(Any other relevant point)