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

- Please check that this question paper contains **20** printed pages.
- The code number given on the right-hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**

ENGLISH

(Language & Literature)

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. *The Question Paper contains THREE sections - READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.*
2. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

Section A—READING SKILLS**(20 Marks)****Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages****1. Read the following text. (10 Marks)**

1. Allowing forests to regenerate on their own has been championed as a strategy for reducing planet-heating carbon in the atmosphere while also boosting biodiversity, the benefits ecosystems offer and even the fruitfulness of livelihoods.
2. But efforts to increase global tree cover to limit climate change have skewed towards erecting plantations of fast-growing trees. The reasons are obvious: planting trees can demonstrate results a lot quicker than natural forest restoration. This is helpful if the objective is generating a lot of timber quickly or certifying carbon credits which people and firms buy to supposedly offset their emissions.
3. While plantations on farms and barren land can provide firewood and timber, easing the pressure on natural forests and so aiding their regeneration, ill-advised tree planting can unleash invasive species and even dispossess people of their land.
4. Sometimes these trees are planted in grasslands and other ecosystems where tree cover is naturally low. The result is that afforestation harms rural and indigenous people who depend on these ecosystems for grazing and produce. The continued planting of exotic trees risks new invasive species like wattle palm in India introduced 200 years ago. This includes carefully choosing plantation species to ensure they don't become invasive.

5. There are positive case studies too. The Forest Rights Act of 2006 empowered village assemblies to manage forest areas that had once been in traditional use. Several village assemblies in the Gadchiroli district of central India have restored degraded forests and managed them as a sustainable source of tendu leaves, which are used to wrap *bidi*. In the Kuchchh grasslands of western India, communities were able to restore grasslands by removing the invasive *gando bawal* (meaning “mad tree”) first introduced by British foresters in the late 19th century.
6. The success of forest restoration efforts cannot be measured by tree cover alone. The Indian government’s definition of “forest” still encompasses plantations of a single tree species, orchards, and even bamboo, which actually belongs to the grass family. This means that biennial forest surveys cannot correctly quantify either forest restoration or the displaced native trees.
7. Natural forest regeneration and plantations for timber and fuel should both be encouraged but with due consideration of how other ecosystems and people will be affected. Determining whether local people and the environment are benefiting is a more helpful measure of success than simply scanning a forest canopy from above. Some of the best practices on restoration implemented by communities such as Gadchiroli should be studied and scaled up and ecosystems in which trees are scarce should be revived too.

(429 Words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(1×10=10)

(a) The writer says that “*Planting trees does not necessarily mean a forest is being restored.*” Which of the following points does not substantiate the given statement? (1)

- (i) The actual policy of reforestation is skewed.
- (ii) Natural forest restoration is not given adequate time.
- (iii) Fast-growing trees are planted.
- (iv) Forest restoration should be measured by tree cover alone.

(b) What is the purpose of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 1? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. (2)

The Forest Rights Act of 2006 empowered village assemblies to manage forest areas which had once been in traditional use.

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

The author questions the authenticity of the biennial forest surveys because

(d) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (i)-(v) below, identify two sets of word-pairs that are NOT antonyms. (1)

- (i) Natural regeneration and methodical plantation
- (ii) Ecosystem and biodiversity
- (iii) Biennial and annual
- (iv) Indigenous and native
- (v) Communities and government

(e) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

Ecosystems and livelihoods dependent on forests will thrive, biodiversity will get a boost and global warming will get reduced if only

(f) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how governments of countries are harming the forests and consequently the environment because of their short-sighted policies. (2)

(g) What bearing does the policy of planting exotic trees like wattle and *gando bawal* have in the long run? Eliminate the odd effect from the list given below. (1)

- (i) It can unleash invasive species of trees that harm the local ecosystems.
- (ii) It can negatively affect pasturelands and the forest produce for indigenous people.
- (iii) It can eventually lead to the restoration of degraded forests and grasslands.
- (iv) It leads to the scanning of tree canopies from above.

(h) According to the author, what is the most important contribution of the local communities that ideally the government should follow? (1)

2. Read the following text. (10 Marks)

1. The global value of counterfeit and pirated items is estimated to be between \$2.5 trillion and \$4.7 trillion, with pharmaceuticals accounting for roughly one-third of the total,

particularly during the 2020 pandemic and post-pandemic years. Some brands shifted their focus and dollars away from policing copycat products because they were squeezed by the pandemic enabling the counterfeiters to thrive.



2. Counterfeit items are prevalent across consumer goods. The spurious goods often pass through major trade hubs such as Hong Kong, UAE, Singapore, and other transit points along the route, purposely creating complex shipping patterns and convoluted documentation that help protect the actual source.
3. Counterfeiting is not limited to high-end luxury items but even common items. Fake goods are everywhere: on well-known e-commerce sites, social media platforms, and even on websites that have been set up to mimic real brands.
4. As much as 27% of consumers are unaware that products are counterfeit at the time of purchase, but 31% willingly purchase spurious products, a survey says. An important finding of the survey was that consumer perception pegged the extent of

counterfeiting at 25-30 per cent of the market, higher than the general industry expectation.

5. India ranks among the top 5 countries for counterfeit goods with a very complex domestic retail environment in major cities from the malls to the footpath hawkers, but even more so in rural areas due to inadequate governmental regulation, legal framework, and weak programming of consumer awareness. The country should harness the strength of active consumer participation. (253 Words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(a) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of the passage. (1)

We can say that the copies or imitations of a product in the market can be compared to a duplicate actor who resembles a popular and established star but cannot be taken as authentic and genuine because he/she

(b) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 5. (1)

The market for counterfeit products in India is really huge owing to low levels of consumer awareness, inadequate government regulation and loose laws is (a fact/an opinion) because it is (a subjective judgement/an objective detail).

(c) Fake goods are all-pervasive but their harmfulness was particularly felt during the pandemic of 2020. Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2)

(d) Based on the passage, which two concerns associated with the protection of the actual source of counterfeit goods are rather worrisome? (1)

(i)

(ii)

(e) Study the statement: *Earlier counterfeit products were limited to luxury items or high-end products out of reach of the common man.*

State any one inference that can be drawn from this. (1)

(f) Select the option/options that correctly display/s what 'counterfeit' signifies in the passage. (1)



Image (i)



Image (ii)



Image (iii)



Image (iv)



Image (v)

(g) Infer one benefit and one drawback of the survey conducted on spurious goods in the markets and consumer behaviour. Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(h) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? (1)

(i) Counterfeit items are prevalent across all consumer goods.

(ii) Spurious goods market is supported by international trade hubs.

(iii) 31% of customers willingly buy fake goods than unintentional ones (27%).

(iv) Active consumer participation is the answer to this problem.

Section B—WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1×10=10)

(a) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter. (1)

Dear Sir

Subject: Apple iPhone not working

My new Apple iPhone which I bought just 3 days back has stopped working (from/since) yesterday, which is very surprising for such a high-end product.

(b) Read the given sentence from a newspaper article. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. (1)

The Reangs numbered over 180,000, are indigenous to north-eastern India and have historically resided in parts of Mizoram, Tripura, and Assam states.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(c) Ankit's boss has to catch a flight. As Ankit lives somewhere near the airport, report the question Ankit asked his boss. (1)

Ankit:

Atul: Thanks a lot. It will be a great help to me.

(d) Read the conversation given below between a teacher and her student. Complete the sentence by reporting the dialogue. (1)

Teacher: Why have you not finished your assignment?

Student: Because it put me off to sleep.

When the teacher asked her student why she had not finished her assignment, the student replied that.....

- (i) it had put her off to sleep.
- (ii) it had putted her off to sleep.
- (iii) it put her off to sleep.
- (iv) it was putting her off to sleep.

(e) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the opening line of an issued circular by a college to its students. (1)

This is to inform all the students that our college is currently not arranging (the/an/any/some) official educational trips or tours so students should focus on their academic pursuits.

(f) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a commercial company's circular about a change in the working hours. (1)

This is to inform all employees that the organization introduced a nine-hour shift from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with all weekends off effective immediately.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(g) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a health report. (1)

Tobacco breaks down quickly in the human body, so addicts might need to smoke or chew some on a regular basis to

maintain the desired affects of nicotine on the brain to keep their focus intact.

Option no.	Error	Correction
(i)	might	may
(ii)	or	and
(iii)	affects	effects
(iv)	their	the

(h) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option. (1)

All sorts of cruelties upon them but the workers remained united during their protest against the factory owners.

Young bird: I feel certain that my wings will never support me.

Parent bird: Your wings will believe what you believe in.

When the young bird felt certain that her wings would never support her, her parent assured her that

(j) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence in a report on changing trends in world tourism by the UN. (1)

According to a recent report issued by the UN World Tourism Organisation, 57% of international tourist arrivals in emerging economies by 2030.

(i) may be (ii) can be
(iii) will be (iv) have to be

(k) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option. (1)

Whenever I to remind them of the prevalent restrictions, they have dismissed the matter as overcautiousness.

(i) have to try (ii) have been trying
(iii) had tried (iv) have tried

(l) Identify the error and supply correction, for the following offer on a shop's hoarding for its customers. (1)

Contact to bulk orders: school bags, college bags, shopping bags and trolley bags.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

WRITING SKILLS

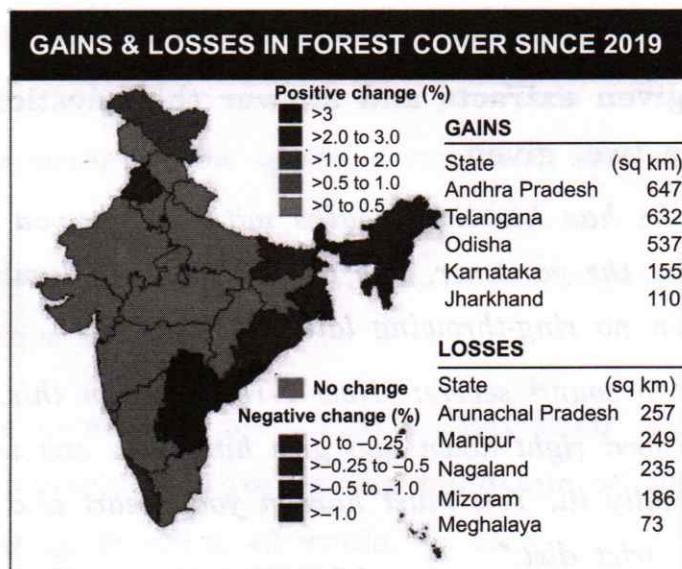
(10 Marks)

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

4. (A) Your school is proposing to take about fifty students to Ooty. You are Samar Kohli, the Organising Secretary of your school. Write a letter to the Manager of the Youth Hostel in Ooty, requesting him to supply you with information about accommodation and other matters for a duration of three days. (5)

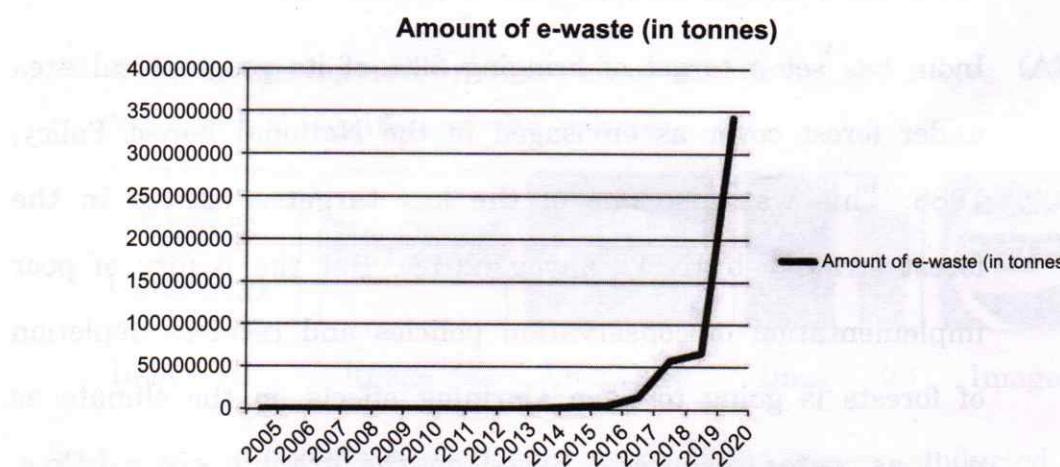
(B) In Indian society, women have customarily been kept subservient to men. The traditional mindset gives preference to sons over daughters. Women of India need to be empowered for a strong and healthy society. You feel strongly about this issue and decide to draft a letter to the editor of a national daily as Sudha Murlidharan/Sudhakaran Muralidharan. Invent other necessary details as required.

5. (A) India has set a target of bringing 33% of its geographical area under forest cover as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. This was also one of the key targets enlisted in the forest strategy by NITI Aayog (2018). But the reality of poor implementation of conservation policies and reckless depletion of forests is going to have alarming effects on the climate as well as water resources. Based on the graphic given below, write an analytical paragraph on this trend. **(5)**



OR

(B) E-waste is emerging as a serious public health and environmental issue in India. India is the “Third largest electronic waste producer in the world”; approximately 2 million tons of e-waste are generated annually and an undisclosed amount of e-waste is imported from other countries around the world. Big cities like Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, etc. are top contributors. Analyse the graph given below and write an analytical paragraph on the given topic.



**Section C—LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND
SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT**

(40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

(A) “Well, he has his little walks with me as you can see, but Hodgkin, the gardener, has been down with lumbago, so there has been no ring-throwing lately.”

I tried to sound severe: “Now I really mean this. If you don’t cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet.”

Mrs. Pumphrey wrung her hands. "Oh I will, Mr Herriot. I'm sure you are right, but it is so difficult, so very difficult." She set off, head down, along the road, as if determined to put the new regime into practice immediately. (A Triumph of Surgery)

(a) State any one inference about Tricki from the given context. (1)

'If you don't cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill.'

(b) The meaning of the phrase 'to sound severe' is (1)

(i) to sound angry (ii) to sound firm
(iii) to sound irritable (iv) to sound ruthless

(c) Read the following extract.

Mrs. Pumphrey says to the vet, "I'm sure you are right, but it is so difficult, so very difficult."

Why was it so difficult for her? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the above extract. (2)

(d) Which word or phrase would correctly substitute 'fixed schedule' in the given sentence from the extract? (1)

All obese people were put on a fixed schedule of 'no carbs, high protein' diet.

OR

(B) *He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. "Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He*

answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curveting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. (Two Stories about Flying - His First Flight)

(a) The line 'he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly' implies the (1)

- (i) great confidence the young gull had in his skills.
- (ii) naturalness of the act of flying for the young gull.
- (iii) satisfaction and joy of flying together as a family.
- (iv) desire of the young gull to leave his fears behind.

(b) The author describes the seagull's mother making noise by using the words 'Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah'. How would you interpret the mother's response and analyse the author's description? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(c) The extract refers to the many movements of the young gull's brothers and sister. Choose the option that correctly sequences these movements. (1)

- (i) The young gull's brothers and sister flew by tilting their wings, rose high, made darting movements, and plunged headfirst.
- (ii) The young gull's brothers and sister flew by plunging headfirst, making darting movements, tilted their wings, and rose high.

(iii) The young gull's brothers and sister flew with darting movements, tilted their wings, rose high and plunged headfirst.

(iv) The young gull's brothers and sister flew by rising high, plunging headfirst, making darting movements and tilting their wings.

(d) Which literary device(s) has/have been used in 'shrieking shrilly'? (1)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

(A) *Stalking the length of his cage,*

Ignoring visitors.

He hears the last voice at night,

The patrolling cars,

And stares with his brilliant eyes

At the brilliant stars.

(A *Tiger in the Zoo*)

(a) What does the poet wish to convey with the words 'stalking the length of his cage'? (1)

(b) What is the significance of the use of the word 'brilliant' in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(c) Choose the option listing the most likely reason for the tiger to ignore visitors, according to the extract. (1)

(i) He is scared of their constant stares.

(ii) The visitors don't provide him with any food.

(iii) He knows that none would help him out of captivity.
(iv) The visitors don't speak to him kindly.

(d) Identify the type of imagery used in the lines of the poem. (1)

OR

(B) But I can get a hair-dye

*And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair.*

(For Anne Gregory)

(a) What is the objective of the poet in using conjunction 'but' in the given extract? (1)

(b) What is the significance of the argument "*But I can get a hair-dye/And set such colour there, Brown, or black, or carrot*"? What effect will it have on the young men?
Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(c) Anne Gregory despite her young age seems to have clarity of thought because she wants (1)

(i) to dye her hair brown, black, or carrot.
(ii) young men to love her for her yellow hair.
(iii) to be loved for her internal beauty.
(iv) young men to love her desperately.

(d) Identify the use of consonance in the given lines of the poem. (1)

**8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about
40-50 words. (4×3=12)**

(a) What ideals did Mandela set out for the future of South Africa in his speech? (*Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*) (3)

(b) Do you think the words 'lept' and 'lep' in the third stanza are spelled correctly? Why does the poet spell them like this? (*How to Tell Wild Animals*) (3)

(c) Why is Chubukov surprised at Lomov's wearing of a formal evening dress when Lomov comes to meet him? (*The Proposal*) (3)

(d) What game did Mijbil invent? (*Mijbil the Otter*) (3)

(e) Difficulties come but they are not to stay forever. They come and go. Comment referring to the poem 'Fog'. (3)

**9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about
40-50 words. (2×3=6)**

(a) Why was Mme Forestier shocked to hear Matilda's story? (*The Necklace*) (3)

(b) 'Privilege often confuses actual needs for perceived ones.' Evaluate this statement with reference to Mrs. Pumphrey. (*A Triumph of Surgery*) (3)

(c) Looking back at the story, when do you think Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of Max? Do you think he had worked out his plan in detail right from the beginning? Or did he make up a plan to take advantage of events as they happened? (*The Midnight Visitor*) (3)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1×6=6)

(A) Anne Frank in 'From the Diary of Anne Frank' used to say that 'Paper has more patience than people'. Do you agree with the statement? What is the common element between her belief and Lencho's? (*A Letter to God* and *From the Diary of Anne Frank*)

OR

(B) Being impressed by Custard's feat, the young seagull's sister wrote a letter to Custard seeking advice on addressing the situation with her young brother. Write Custard's response to this letter based on the advice from his experiences.

You may begin like this:

Dear Ms. Seagull

Thank you for seeking me out. I'm humbled. Based on my limited experiences, I feel...

(His First Flight and The Tale of Custard, the Dragon)

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1×6=6)

(A) "Don't you worry, Pitaji! In your old age, I will serve you and mother." Through the statement, the narrator wants to highlight the moral values Bholi was imbued with. Based on the reading of the lesson, what made Bholi aware of her rights and how did she use them? (*Bholi*)

OR

(B) How does Think Tank compare the Martians with the people on Earth? What guesses are made by him about the books found on Earth? (*The Book that Saved the Earth*)

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