

**DAV BR PUBLIC SCHOOL, BINA  
SAMPLE PAPER FOR HALF YEARLY**

**English Core- XII**

**Time allowed: 3 hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

- (i) *This Question Paper has 13 questions. **All** questions are compulsory.*
- (ii) *This Question Paper contains **THREE** Sections – Section A: **READING SKILLS** Section B: **CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** and Section C: **LITERATURE**.*
- (iii) *Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- (iv) *Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.*
- (v) *Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**SECTION – A**

**Reading Skills**

**20 Marks**

**1. Read the passage given below:**

- (1) I know many friends of mine who drink coffee regularly but do not know that coffee exists in different forms other than instant coffee. There are many who swear by Flora café classic or Coco gold, which they consider premium coffee. I may sound offensive but instant coffee is not the only way; in fact it's a very bad way of making coffee! Instant coffee cannot match up to brewed coffee's flavour nor does it have Arabica beans. It uses Robusta beans that are lower in flavour. Don't know the difference?! Read on ...
- (2) That plant might be a genius! It created a chemical that would keep pests away. Fortunately for us and unfortunately for the plant – that plan did not work the way it was intended to. The chemical might have averted a few pest attacks, but attracted a far greater threat – human beings. The plant I am talking about is coffee and the chemical is caffeine.
- (3) To begin from the beginning – coffee is from a more mature part of

the tree – the seed – unlike other stimulants. The ripe berry is picked and de-pulped leaving us with a seed called ‘green bean’ or ‘green coffee’. Green bean is uncharacteristically bland with a taste nowhere close to that of coffee, but it is valued for its higher antioxidant levels.

- (4) It’s an interesting phenomenon to see how this bland green bean turns to a flavourful coffee bean. Coffee bean is a seed and like any other seed is rich in proteins, fats and all necessary ingredients for giving birth to a new plant. When exposed to heat, the fats and carbohydrates in the bean turn into essential oils, which give the characteristic taste and aroma to the coffee bean. The degree of roasting depends on the need or purpose of use.
- (5) These beans are ground so that the surface area of the bean is increased, which makes extraction easier. The bean can be ground or crushed but making the particles uniform will ensure equal extraction, or else the smaller particle will get over extracted and the larger one under extracted. Hence, the burr grinder is used to ensure that the coffee bean gets ground in a uniform way in which all particles are of similar sizes.
- (6) Does under extraction give a lighter coffee and over extraction a stronger one? No. For a lighter or stronger coffee less or more coffee powder has to be used. Why? Under extraction will not get all the flavours of the coffee as the water runs too quickly. It will not get what you want – it will taste sour. Over-extraction will bring out all unnecessary flavours rendering the taste bitter.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below:** **10 × 1 = 10**

- (i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.

The author complained that his friends \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) consumed only Flora classics.

- (b) were not aware of different forms of coffee.
  - (c) were severely addicted to drinking coffee.
  - (d) considered Coco gold as premium coffee.
- (ii) Comment on the writer's reference to the unique feature of coffee plant. (paragraph 2)
- (iii) List the reason why the author refers to humans as 'great threat to coffee' plants.
- (iv) Select an option that conveys the same meaning as 'energiser' from words used in paragraph 3.
- (a) bland
  - (b) mature
  - (c) antioxidant
  - (d) stimulants
- (v) Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference with respect to the following :
- Fats and carbohydrates turn into essential oils leading to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vi) Comment on the writer's reference to the interesting phenomenon in paragraph 4.
- (vii) Over extraction does not give a stronger coffee. Based on your understanding of paragraph 6, list one method to get stronger coffee.
- (viii) The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph five EXCEPT
- (a) The burr grinder grinds coffee beans uniformly.
  - (b) Less surface area makes extraction easier.
  - (c) Grinding gives stronger aroma.
  - (d) Good coffee is a mix of smaller and bigger particles.
- (ix) Why is it fair to say that the right degree of extraction of coffee is important?
- (x) Select the most suitable title of the above passage.
- (a) The Art of Coffee Making

- (b) Benefits of Consuming Coffee
- (c) Green Coffee – The perfect antioxidant
- (d) The Coffee Addict

**2. Read the passage given below:**

- (1) News – If you can't remember the last time, you saw a teenager reading a book, newspaper or magazine, you're not alone. In recent years, less than 20 percent of teens report reading a book, magazine or newspaper daily for pleasure. More than 80 percent say they use social media every day, according to research published by the World Psychological Association.
- (2) "Compared with previous generations, teens in the 2010s spent more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books, magazines and television," said lead author of the book *yGen* and professor of psychology at ABC University. "Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching TV."
- (3) Swaner and her colleagues analyzed data concluded from an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students annually. They looked at survey results from 1976 to 2016, representing more than 1 million teenagers. While the study started with only twelfth-graders in the 1970s, eighth- and tenth-graders were added in 1991.
- (4) Use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. It also increased 75 percent for tenth-graders and 68 percent for eighth-graders.
- (5) "In the mid-2010s, the average twelfth-grader reported spending approximately two hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet – which included gaming – and just under two hours a day on social media," said Swaner. That's a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media activities during their leisure time."
- (6) In comparison, tenth-graders reported a total of five hours per day

and eighth-graders reported four hours per day on those three digital activities. Consequently the spent time in the digital world is seriously degrading the time they spend on more traditional media such as print book and newspapers.

- (7) The decline in reading print media was especially steep. In the early 1990s, 33 percent of tenth-graders said they read a newspaper almost every day. By 2016, that number was only 2 percent. In the late 1970s, 60 percent of twelfth-graders said they read a book or a magazine almost every day; by 2016, only 16 percent did. Twelfth-graders also reported reading fewer books each year in 2016 compared to how much they read in 1976, and approximately one-third did not read a book (including e-books) for pleasure in the year prior to the 2016 survey.
- (8) There's no lack of intelligence among young people. However due to over dependence on digital media they find it difficult to focus for long periods of time and to read long-form text. Subsequently they find it challenging to understand complex issues and develop critical thinking skills.

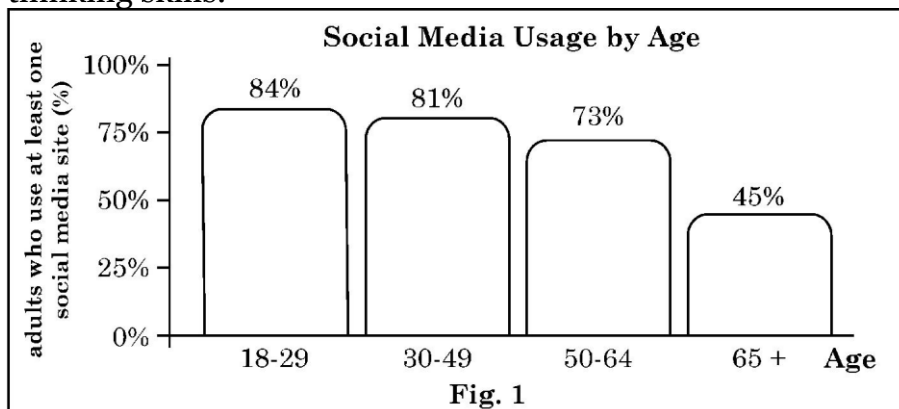


Fig. 1

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:**

**10 × 1 = 10**

- (i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1?  
 The writer believes that very few teens indulge in reading as a pleasurable activity.  
 Select from the following:  
 True: if the statement agrees with the information.  
 False: if the statement contradicts the information.  
 Not given: if there is no information on this.
- (ii) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for this research.  
 In order to find out .....

- (a) reading choices of teenagers.
  - (b) digital competency of teenagers.
  - (c) speed of reading text.
  - (d) the decline of time spent on traditional media.
- (iii) Complete the statement based on the following statement :  
Traditional media has been replaced by digital media,  
we can say this because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Do you think that the researchers of study added tenth and eighth graders to the survey deliberately?  
Support your answer with reference to the text.
- (v) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option :  
The concluding sentence of the text makes a clear case for \_\_\_\_\_  
by listing it as a core competency for analysis and application.
- (a) following social media
  - (b) reading long texts
  - (c) building focus and concentration
  - (d) developing constructive habits
- (vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option :  
The digital activities that the twelfth-graders indulge in are \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) texting, gaming, television
  - (b) texting, gaming, social media
  - (c) newspaper, books, magazine
  - (d) television, books, gaming
- (vii) Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words:  
Teens today hardly read print media for \_\_\_\_\_.
- (viii) Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement :  
“Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching T.V.”
- (ix) What does the author mean by ‘degrading the time’ in para 6 ?
- (a) spending less time      (b) waste of time
  - (c) consuming more time    (d) saving time
- (x) As per Fig. 1, the percentage of people above 50 yrs is \_\_\_\_\_ the percentage of teenagers using social media.
- (a) greater than                      (b) less than
  - (c) equal to                            (d) negligible to

**SECTION – B**  
**Creative Writing Skills**

**20 Marks**

3. Attempt any *ONE* of the following in about **50** words.
- (a) You are Vijay/Veena. Head Boy/Girl of Minerva Public School, Bhopal. Your school is planning to organize a Career Counseling Workshop for the students of classes 9-12. Draft a notice in about **50** words informing students about the workshop mentioning day, date, time and venue. **5**
- OR**
3. (b) Your school is planning to organize a Water Conservation Awareness Program for the students. As school captain of SLV Public School, Lucknow, draft a notice in about **50** words informing the students about the program mentioning day, date, time and venue. You are Sanjay / Sanjana. **5**
4. Attempt any *ONE* from (a) and (b) given below :
- (a) You have bought a new house in Meerut. Write an informal letter of invitation inviting your friends and relatives to the house warming ceremony. Mention day, date, time and venue. As Rajesh Sharma, draft an invitation in about **50** words. **5**
- OR**
4. (b) You are Manoj / Meena. You have received an invitation from your friend Vijay to a party to celebrate his admission in a prestigious Management Institute. Write an informal letter in about **50** words accepting the invitation. Mention day, date, time and venue. **5**
5. Attempt any *ONE* from (a) and (b) given below :
- (a) You have recently come across an advertisement for the post of software engineer in S.K. Global Solutions. Write an application with bio-data in about **120-150** words to The Manager, S.K. Global Solutions, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore. You are Ranjan / Ritu of Indra Nagar, Bangalore. **5**

**SK GLOBAL SOLUTIONS**

Required Software Engineer

Job Responsibilities:

- Write well-designed software
- Develop layouts
- Execute software development cycle.

Preferred Skills & Qualifications :

- B. Tech. – Computer Science
- Experience – 3-5 years.

**OR**

5. (b) You are Sujoy / Sujata of Nehru Colony, Indore. You recently visited Shimla with your family. You were perturbed to see the tourists throwing empty water bottles and cans all over the place. Write a letter to the editor of national daily in about **120-150** words expressing your concern and offering suggestions to improve the situation. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.

5

Eco Friendly Travel  
create less waste  
dispose garbage properly  
40% pollution increase during tourist season  
do sustainable travel  
waste and pollution have far reaching impact on  
wildlife, environment, visitors & communities  
create – clean and healthy vacation destination  
Ecological Conservation – A need of the hour.

6. Attempt any **ONE** from (a) and (b) given below :
- (a) You are Rahul / Rekha. There are frequent power cuts in your locality. You strongly feel that it is time to shift to solar power. Write an article in about **120-150** words on the topic “Solar Power. An Apt Global Solution for Energy Crisis’. Support your ideas with the cues given below.

5

- renewable energy
- reduce energy bill
- completely clean – no air or water pollution, no greenhouse gas effects, carbon free; no emissions
- low maintenance cost

**OR**

6. (b) Your school recently conducted an inter-school Heritage Quiz Contest. As a student reporter, write a report of the event in about **120-150** words to be published in your school magazine. You are Amit/Archana. Mention day, date, time and venue.

5



Know Your Heritage  
An Inter-School Quiz Contest

- History
- Mythology
- Culture
- Monuments
- Handicraft
- Attractive prizes for audience question
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, St. Marks School

**SECTION – C**

**40 Marks**

**Literature**

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any **ONE**:

**6 × 1 = 6**

- (a) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never  
pass into nothingness: but will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health and quiet  
breathing.

Therefore, on every morrow are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth;  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways  
Made for our searching.

- (i) Keats defines beauty as

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) transient   | (b) eternal     |
| (c) illusionary | (d) short lived |

- (ii) 'will keep a bower quiet for us' means all of the following EXCEPT

- |                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| (a) create a peaceful, shady place |
| (b) provide a shelter              |
| (c) will decrease noise pollution  |
| (d) nature's canopy                |

- (iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below :
1. Beautiful things uplift the soul.
  2. Beauty is ever-changing.
- (a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
  - (b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
  - (c) both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract.
  - (d) both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract.
- (iv) The things that cause unhappiness are
- (1) lack of noble nature
  - (2) old tunes
  - (3) dull days
  - (4) calm mind
  - (5) a flowery band
  - (6) strong relationships
- Choose the most appropriate option :
- (a) (1) and (2)
  - (b) (1) and (3)
  - (c) (4) and (5)
  - (d) (3) and (6)
- (v) Complete the analogy. Do not repeat from used example :
- flowery band : metaphor :: \_\_\_\_\_ : alliteration
- (vi) According to the poet 'every morrow' we are \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

7. (b) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen, **6 × 1 = 6**  
 Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,  
 They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
 They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.  
 Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
 Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
 The massive weight of uncle's wedding band  
 Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.
- (i) Denizens of the world of green refer to \_\_\_\_\_.  
    - (a) huntsmen
    - (b) Aunt Jennifer
    - (c) uncle
    - (d) tigers
  - (ii) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the second line of the extract.  
    - (a) heart of stone
    - (b) trees sprouting
    - (c) silver spoon
    - (d) white murder
  - (iii) The men setting beneath the tree are \_\_\_\_\_.

- (iv) What quality of uncle can be inferred through these lines?  
 (a) compassionate nature (b) courageous  
 (c) confident (d) dominating
- (v) The tigers in the extract are symbolic of  
 (a) creativity and courage (b) confidence and gentleness  
 (c) cruelty and fear (d) aggression and starving
- (vi) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across  
 (1) the screen (2) the fields  
 (3) the embroidered tunic (4) the cage  
 Which of the following is the most appropriate choice?  
 (a) (1) and (2) (b) (2) and (4)  
 (c) (1), (2) and (3) (d) (1) and (3)

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any *ONE*:

**4 × 1 = 4**

(a) To make sure, I walked over the newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was *The World* and *The World* hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894.

I turned toward the ticket windows knowing that here – on the third level at Grand Central – I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go. In the year 1894. And I wanted two tickets to Galesburg, Illinois.

- (i) The newspaper that covered the lead story about President Cleveland was  
 (a) *The Pioneer* (b) *The New York Times*  
 (c) *The World* (d) *The Times*
- (ii) The narrator wanted to buy tickets to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iii) Which of the following in the extract most nearly means the opposite of 'stare'?  
 (a) glance (b) peek  
 (c) ignore (d) examine
- (iv) Charley wanted two tickets because he wanted to go with  
 (a) Sam (b) Cleveland  
 (c) Louisa (d) the Psychiatrist

**OR**

8. (b) When I was studying in the third class, I hadn't yet heard people speak openly of untouchability. But I had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what it is.

I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along watching all the fun and games that were going on, all the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

**4 × 1 = 4**

- (i) The narrator was humiliated because \_\_\_\_.
- (ii) The narrator 'dawdled along' as she \_\_\_\_.
- (a) enjoyed looking at the various sights
- (b) was getting late for school
- (c) she didn't like going home
- (d) she enjoyed haggling and shopping
- (iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below :
- (I) The distance from school to home was very short.
- (II) She was feeling upset and so dawdling her way home.
- (a) (I) can be inferred from the extract but (II) cannot
- (b) (II) can be inferred from the extract but (I) cannot
- (c) Both (I) and (II) cannot be inferred from the extract
- (d) Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract
- (iv) The word 'novelties' in the passage most nearly means
- (a) colorful trinkets                      (b) wooden toys
- (c) unique and interesting items
- (d) expensive souvenirs

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any **ONE**.

**6 × 1 = 6**

- (a) "I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten rupee note", Saheb says, his eyes lighting up when you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don't stop scrounging, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children it is wrapped in wonder, for the elders it is a means of survival.

One winter morning I see Saheb standing by the fenced gate of the neighbourhood club, watching two young men dressed in white, playing tennis. "I like the game", he hums, content to watch it standing behind the fence. "I go inside when no one is around" he admits. "The gate keeper lets me use the swing."

- (i) Saheb found a rupee  
 (a) on the street (b) in the garbage dump  
 (c) in Firozabad (d) on the tennis court
- (ii) Which emotion of Saheb is revealed in the phrase ‘his eyes lighting up’?  
 (a) anxiety (b) envy  
 (c) happiness (d) greed
- (iii) For the elders garbage is \_\_\_\_\_ and for children it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to I and II given below :  
 I. Saheb watches the game from outside.  
 II. Saheb had lost the previous match.  
 (a) I is true but II is not (b) II is true but I is not  
 (c) Both I and II are true (d) Both I and II are untrue
- (v) ‘Scrounging’ in the passage most nearly means.  
 (a) digging (b) searching  
 (c) flinging (d) burying
- (vi) ‘There is hope for finding more’. Explain with reference to the above extract.

**OR**

9. (b) “Or an actress. Now there’s real money in that. Yes, and I could may be have the boutique on the side. Actresses don’t work full time, do they? Anyway, that or a fashion designer. You know –something a bit sophisticated”. And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain. “If I ever come into money I’ll buy a boutique”. “Huh, if you ever come into money ... if you ever come into money you’ll buy us a blessed decent house to live in, thank you very much.”

Sophie’s father was scooping shepherd’s pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and sweat – marked from the day.

“She thinks money grows on trees, don’t she Dad? Said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father’s chair.

**6 × 1 = 6**

Their mother sighed.

- (i) Sophie wants to become an actress to  
 (a) become famous (b) to earn money  
 (c) to support her father (d) to compete with Jansie
- (ii) Jansie wanted Sophie to spend her money on  
 (a) her marriage (b) her career  
 (c) to open a boutique (d) buying a house
- (iii) Sophie is daydreaming about \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) The phrase ‘money grows on trees’ indicates that Sophie \_\_\_\_\_.
- (v) Sophie’s mother’s sigh is one of

- (a) regret (b) delight  
 (c) relief (d) helplessness
- (vi) From the extract Jansie comes across as a \_\_\_\_\_ person.  
 (a) practical (b) dominating  
 (c) immature (d) starstruck

10. Answer any **FIVE** out of six questions given below in about **40-50** words :

**5 × 2 = 10**

- (a) What does Gandhi refer to as 'conflict of duties'?
- (b) What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to? What does it reveal about city people?
- (c) Why did the iron master compare Edla to a parson?
- (d) What is the significance of the word 'but' in 'but all I said was see you soon, Amma? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)
- (e) What handicap did Douglas suffer from? How did he overcome that?
- (f) What according to Pablo Neruda in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' is the lesson that we should learn from mother earth?

11. Answer any **TWO** out of three questions given below in about **40-50** words:

**2 × 2 = 4**

- (a) Why was Dr. Sadao not sent abroad with the troops?
- (b) What was the hidden agenda behind the Tiger King's marriage with the princess in the neighbouring state?
- (c) What are the significant features of 'Students on Ice Program'?

12. Answer any **ONE** in about **120-150** words :

- (a) The last lesson reflects the flaws in human character that led to the sad plight of people in Alsace. Substantiate your answer with evidences from the text.

**5**

**OR**

- (b) A Roadside Stand is a social satire depicting the two contrasting worlds existing in society. Justify this statement with reference to the poem.

**5**

13. Answer any **ONE** in about **120-150** words :

- (a) Mr. Lamb stands as a symbol of optimism and hope. Support your answer with examples from the text.

**5**

**OR**

- (b) Dr. Sadao emerges as a saviour of humanity. Substantiate your answer with evidence from the text.

**5**

**ALL THE BEST!**