

DAV BR PUBLIC SCHOOL, BINA
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2024-25

Class: XI
Subject: English Core

Maximum Mark: 80
Time: 3 Hrs

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Question Paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections—READING, GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION-A: READING SKILLS

(26Marks)

I. Read the passage given below.

1. “Who doesn’t know how to cook rice? Cooking rice hardly takes time” said my father. So, I challenged myself. I switched from news to YouTube and typed, “How to cook rice?” I took one and a half cups of rice. Since I didn’t have access to a rice cooker, I put the rice in a big pot. Firstly, the rice has to be washed to get rid of dust and starch. I thought I won’t be able to drain the rice and that it will fall out of the pot. I observed the chef as I swirled the rice around and used my dexterous hands to drain it, not once, not twice, but three times. I looked down at the sink and saw less than 50 grains that made their way out of the pot. Suffice to say, I was up to the mark.
2. The video stated that the key to perfect rice is equal amounts of rice and water. I have heard that professionals don’t need to measure everything; they just know what the right amount is. But as this was my first time in the kitchen, I decided to experiment by not measuring the water needed for boiling the rice. I wanted the rice to be firm when bitten, just like pasta. I don’t enjoy the texture of mushy rice. It has to have that chutzpah; it has to resist my biting power just for a bit before disintegrating.
3. After what seemed like 10 minutes, all the water disappeared. I went in to give it a good stir. To my surprise, some of the rice got stuck to the pot. I tried to scrape it off but to no avail. At the same time, there was a burning smell coming from it. I quickly turned the stove off. “What have you done to the kitchen?” shouted Mother, while coming towards the kitchen. I managed to ward her off.
4. Finally, when the time came to taste my creation, I was surprised! It wasn’t bad at all. The rice had the desired consistency. Sure, a little more salt would have been better, but I just added that while eating. The experience was fairly rewarding and memorable. It taught me a new sense of respect for those who cook food on a regular basis at home or engage in gourmet creations professionally.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any TEN questions from the eleven given.

[10X1=10]

a. Father’s question to the narrator, about knowing how to cook rice, was intended to

- i. Criticize the narrator’s lack of abilities.
- ii. Make the process sound simple.
- iii. Encourage the narrator to take up cooking.
- iv. Showcase his own expertise in cooking rice.

b. “I switched from news to YouTube.....” Pick the option in which the meaning of ‘switch(ed)’ is NOT the Same as it is in the passage.

- i. He switched on the radio to listen to the news while having dinner.
- ii. “Forget these diet supplements and switch to yoga, if you want a true sense of well-being.”
- iii. Mom switched to reading fiction recently because she was bored with cook books.
- iv. The company will switch the trucks to other routes to bring down city pollution.

c. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the process.

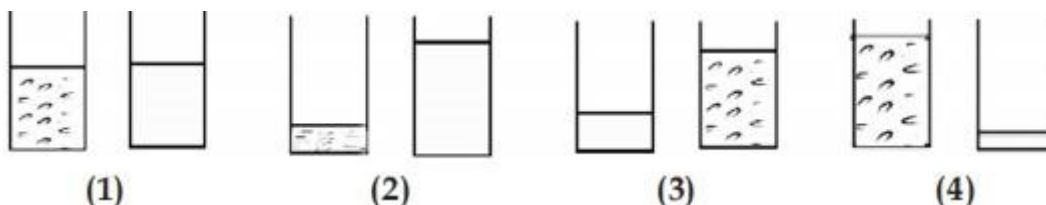
- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Use water to wash the rice. | 2. Repeat the process three times. |
| 3. Drain the water off. | 4. Put rice in a utensil. |
| 5. Swirl the water in and around the rice. | |

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| i. 4,2,1,3,5 | ii. 1,3,2,5,4 |
| iii.4,1,5,3,2 | iv.5,1,2,4,3 |

d. The narrator says that he has dexterous hands. He would have had a problem had it been the opposite NOT BEING dexterous means being

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| i. uncomfortable | ii. clumsy |
| iii. unclear | iv. clueless |

e. Which option represents the correct ratio of water to rice for cooking 'perfect rice'?



- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| i. Image(1) | ii. Image(2) |
| iii. Image(3) | iv. Image(4) |

f. How did the mother react to the burning smell?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| i. She commented on it. | ii. She brushed it aside. |
| iii. She enquired about it. | iv. She handled it. |

g. According to the passage, the fact that the narrator risked experimentation, on his maiden attempt in the kitchen, shows that he was

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| i. conscientious | ii. nervous |
| iii. presumptuous | iv. courteous |

h. Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word 'chutzpah'.

- It is the court's duty to dispense chutzpah to everyone irrespective of caste or creed.
- The speaker may not have much of a stage presence, but you've got to admit she's got chutzpah.
- I could not crack the code easily which proved me to be a chutzpah and I was the only one who could do so.
- After his father's demise, the daughter took over the family's chutzpah to save it from disaster.

i. Pick the option that correctly states what DID NOT happen after the writer checked on the rice.

- Turning the stove off.
- Being taken aback at the condition of rice.
- Forgetting to scrape the stuck rice.
- Smelling the delicious aroma of cooked rice.

j. The narrator's creation was

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| i. Almost perfect to taste. | ii. way off from what he wanted. |
| iii. overly seasoned. | iv. quite distasteful. |

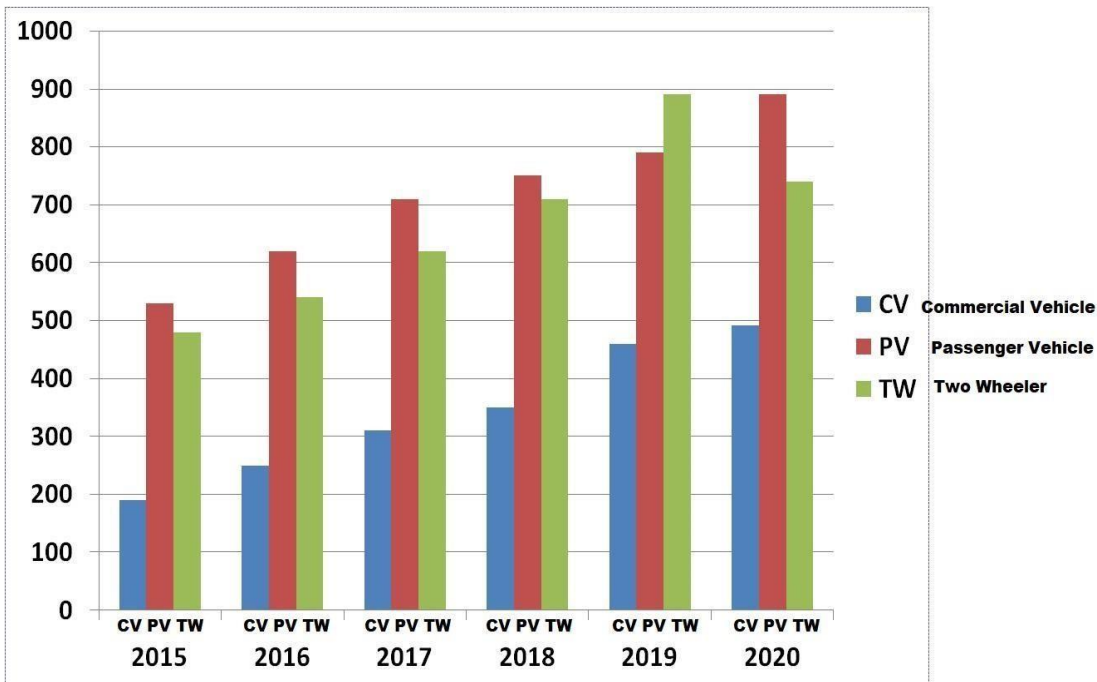
k. Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the cooking experience.

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| (1) frustrating | (2) amusing | (3) satisfying | (4) disillusioning |
| (5) exacting | (6) enlightening | | |
| i. (1) and (4) | ii. (2) and (5) | | |
| iii. (3) and (6) | iv. (1) and (3) | | |

II. Read the passage given below.

INDIAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY REPORT

In 2020, India was the fifth-largest auto market, with ~3.49 million units combined sold in the passenger and commercial vehicles categories. It was the seventh largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in 2019.



The two wheelers segment dominates the market in terms of volume owing to a growing middle class and a young population. Moreover, the growing interest of the companies in exploring the rural markets further aided the growth of the sector.

India is also a prominent auto exporter and has strong export growth expectations for the near future. In addition, several initiatives by the Government of India and major automobile players in the Indian market is expected to make India a leader in the two-wheeler and four-wheeler market in the world by 2025.

Market Size

Domestic automobiles production increased at 2.36% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) between FY (Financial Year)16-20 with 26.36 million vehicles being manufactured in the country in FY 20. Overall, domestic automobiles sales increased at 1.29% CAGR between FY 16-FY 20 with 21.55 million vehicles being sold in FY20.

In FY21, the total passenger vehicles production reached 22,652,108. In June 2021, total volume of passenger vehicles, three wheelers, two wheelers and quadricycle production reached 1,693,639 units.

Two wheelers and passenger vehicles dominate the domestic Indian auto market. Passenger car sales are dominated by small and mid-sized cars. Two wheelers and passenger cars accounted for 80.8% and 12.9% market share, respectively, accounting for a combined sale of over 20.1 million vehicles in FY20. Two-wheeler sales stood at 995,097 units, while passenger vehicle sales stood at 261,633 units in April2021.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions by choosing the correct option. [8X1=8]

a).The reasons for the domination of two wheeler segments in automobile market are

- i) Growing middle class and a young population
- ii) Growing interest of the companies in exploring the rural markets
- iii) Both a&b
- iv) None of the above

b) Passenger car sales are dominated by _____

- i) Small cars
- ii)mid-sized cars.
- iii)big-sized cars
- iv)both a&b

c) India will be a leader in the two-wheeler and four-wheeler market in the world by 2025. One of the main reasons is several initiatives by the Government of India.

- i) Strongly agree
- ii)Strongly disagree
- iii)Partially disagree
- iv)Partially agree

d) The domestic Indian auto market is dominated by _____.

- i) Two wheelers
- ii)Two wheelers and passenger vehicles
- iii)Passenger vehicles
- iv)None of the above

e) According to the graph, the only automobile segment which has ever shown a negative growth during the period under review is

IV. Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below.

3

A. You are Ram/Rajani. Draft a classified advertisement, in not more than 50 words, to be published in India Times for the sale of a used motor car giving all the necessary details.

OR

B. You are Pratik/Pavitra of 12, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Pune. You want to sell your house as you are moving to another city. Draft a classified in not more than 50 words to be published in a popular daily.

V. Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below.

3

A. Design a poster in not more than 50 words for your school library on the value of books and good reading habits. You may use slogans.

OR

B. Design a poster in not more than 50 words about the need for Regular Exercise. You may use slogans.

VI. Attempt **any one** of the questions given below.

5

A. This Pulitzer Prize winning photograph was taken in 1944 and was titled "Homecoming". To take the "Homecoming" photo, Earle Bunker, the photographer, had to arm himself with patience for over 24 hours, waiting for the train that Lieutenant Colonel Robert Moore was coming back after serving in World War - 2. Having been away from his family for 16 months, the soldier was reunited with his family and Bunker captured the very moment of it with the children and wife of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Moore bursting into tears of joy.



But, not every soldier is guaranteed this homecoming. Millions of soldiers die in wars that turn wives into widows and children into orphans. Wars destroy communities and families and often disrupt the development of the social and economic fabric of nations. The effects of wars include long-term physical and psychological harm to children and adults, as well as reduction in material and human capital.

Write a speech in 120 – 150 words highlighting the effects of war on society and need to stop wars for the better future of the coming generations.

OR

B. Today, reckless driving has become a great threat on highways. Speeding trucks, buses and cars cause many accidents resulting in the loss of precious lives and property. Roads have become death traps even for pedestrians. The need of the hour is awareness among the people. **Write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly.** [120-150 words]

VII. Attempt the following questions.

1. Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks with the correct form of verbs from the options given. [5X1=5]

It was a cold wintry night. It(i)_____ since morning. A traveler somehow managed to reach a secluded farm house after the night(ii)_____. He knocked at the door and waited for somebody(iii)_____ the door. Perhaps the tired farmer(iv)_____ to sleep after the day's hard labour in the rice fields and there(v)_____ no response in spite of repeated knocks.

(i) (a) raining (b)rained (c)was raining (d)had been raining

- (ii) (a)has fallen(b)had fallen (c)is falling (d)falls
- (iii) (a) open (b)opening (c)has opened(d)to open
- (iv) (a)to go (b)is going (c)had gone (d)goes
- (v) (a)is (b)had been(c)was (d)are

2. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Underline the incorrect word and write the correction in the space provided. [6X1/2=3]

Life was not as it seems to be. _____ e.g. was -is
 It is full of up and downs. [a] _____
 The grass always look greener on the other side. [b] _____ We have
 an habit of grumbling. [c] _____
 We are ever satisfied. [d] _____
 We make us lives miserable [e] _____
 By expect too much from everyone. [f] _____

3. Rearrange the jumbled words to make meaningful sentences. [4X1=4]

- a. She/rather/surrender/would/than/die
- b. Stories/he/wrote/few/that/romantic/very/are/the
- c. Has/taught/teacher/the/this/you/lesson
- d. Their/rooms/boys/the/are/revising/the/lesson/in

SECTION-C:LITERATURE

(31Marks)
10

VIII. Reference to the Context

1. Read the extract and answer the questions. [Prose] **3**

As for my grandmother being young and pretty, the thought was almost revolting. She often told us of the games she used to play as a child. That seemed quite absurd and undignified on her part and we treated it like the fables of the Prophets she used to tell us. She had always been short and fat and slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles running from everywhere to everywhere. No, we were certain she had always been as we had known her. Old, so terribly old that she could not have grown older, and had stayed at the same age for twenty years. She could never have been pretty; but she was always beautiful.

[The portrait of a lady]

A. Why does the author Khushwant Singh say the following about his grandmother?

As for my grandmother being young and pretty, the thought was almost revolting.

- (1) She wasn't pretty at all.
- (2) She could have been pretty when she was young but author had not seen.
- (3) She had become so old that he couldn't think that she was once pretty.
- (4) She had told lies that she was once pretty.
- (5) She had been old and wrinkled ever since the author had seen her.

Choose the correct option from the following:

- (a)(1)and(5) (b)(1),(3)and(4) (c)(1)and(3) (d)(2),(3)and(5)

B. Select the option which displays an example of 'quite absurd'.

- (a)

The teacher taught the lesson in his lucid style.
- (b)

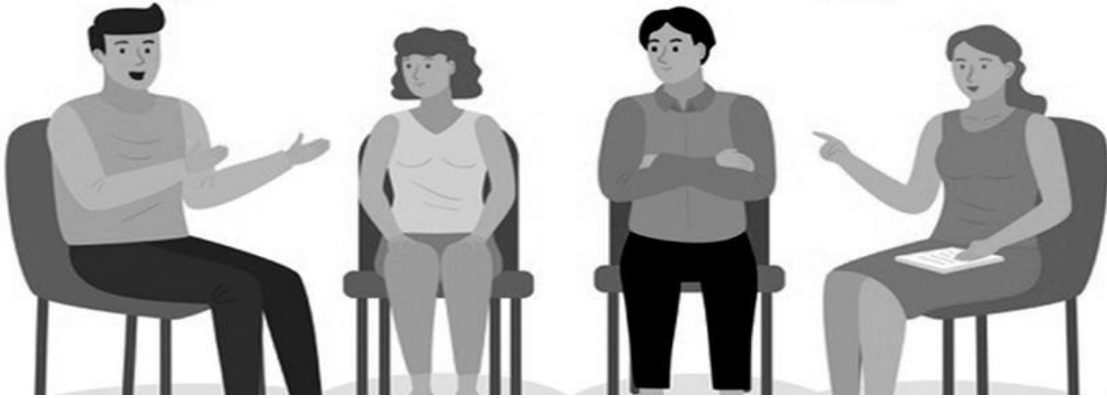
The speaker's language was clear and immaculate.
- (c)

Sadguru's talks are very articulate and easy to understand.
- (d)

The hero fighting 20 villains looked really silly and unbelievable.

C. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s(F)and opinion/s(O)of the students below.

I think, the author's was not really pretty but she told so to him.	Whatever, the author's grandmother was beautiful.	Let's not forget that she herself had never told that she was young and pretty but people Said that.	I feel, it was only the author's imagination that his grandmother was pretty.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)



- (a)F –1,2 and O –3,4 (b)F –3,4 andO–1,2
(c)F –2,3 and O–1,4 (d)F –2,4 andO–1,3

2. Read the stanza and answer the questions. 3

*“Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
She launches away, towards the infinite
And the laburnum subsides to empty”*

A. What does ‘launches ’mean in the extract?

- (a)It means sleeping (b)It means flying (c)It means diving (d)It means fluttering

B. What effect does the last line create?

- (a) It creates the contrast between the liveliness of the tree and its silence
(b) It creates the contrast between the change of seasons
(c) It creates an opportunity to plant more Laburnum trees
(d) It creates the scene for the arrival of new bird species on the tree

C.....from the extract means the same as ‘strange’ and ‘mysterious’.

- (a) Delicate (b)Odd (c) Infinite (d)Eerie

3. Read the extract and answer the questions. 4

We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty- stricken. Every branch of our family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies, not even the old men of the family. Most important of all, though, we were famous for our honesty. We had been famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries, even when we had been the wealthiest family in what we liked to think was the world. We were proud first, honest next, and after that we believed in right and wrong. None of us would take advantage of anybody in the world, let alone steal. [The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse]

A. Who is the narrator of these lines?

- (a)Mourad (b)Aram (c)Khosrove (d)John Byro

B. “We had been famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries.” What does this statement Show about the narrator and his family?

- (a) They were proud that they were honest and they never resorted to stealing.
(b) They lived in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world.
(c) They never knew from where they got money.
(d) They were the wealthiest family in the entire tribe.

C. Why is the narrator talking so proudly of his tribe?

- (a) Because he wanted to ride the horse.
- (b) Because he couldn't believe that his cousin Mourad had stolen the horse.
- (c) Because he wanted his cousin Mourad to return the horse.
- (d) Because he felt that he was dreaming.

D. Based on the following line, the general understanding of the world towards honesty and wealth is-

We had been famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries, even when we had been the wealthiest family in what we liked to think was the world.

- (1) Normally wealth and honesty go hand in hand.
- (2) An honest person becomes rich very easily.
- (3) All rich people are honest.
- (4) Most of the honest people remain poor.
- (5) There is no link to honesty and being rich.

Choose the correct option from the following:

- (a)(1)and(5) (b)(1),(3)and(4) (c)(4)and(5) (d)(2),(3)and(5)

IX. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. [2X3=6]

- 1. Most of the Pyramids excavated till date show that almost all the things that Pharaohs used during their life time were buried along with their mummies. Why do you think the royals carried so much gold to grave?
[Discovering Tut – the saga continues]
- 2. The tall girl in the middle, holding on to the hands of her girl cousins, was full of joy and exuberance. What do you learn about the poetess's mother from the photograph?*[A photograph]*
- 3. How did little Jonathan react to the desperate situation they found themselves in on 5 January?
[We're not afraid to die if we can all be together]

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 40-50 words each. [1X3=3]

- 1. Why does the narrator mention uncle Khosrove? Which characteristic features of the man are highlighted?
[The summer of the beautiful white horse]

OR

- 2. Who had given the narrator the address, when and under what circumstances?*[The Address]*

XI. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120 –150 words. [1x6=6]

- 1. Good grandparents are assets to a family. They become wonderful guides to children as they have lot of time to spend with them. With their wisdom they quench the thirst of young mind's curiosity besides teaching them moral and ethical values.

On the basis of the above, elaborate on the beautiful bond of love and friendship between the author and his grandmother.
[The portrait of a lady]

OR

- 2. What impression do you form about the narrator on the basis of reading 'We're not afraid to die....If We can All be Together'?

XII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120–150 words. [1x6=6]

- 1. Not only in Pearson's family, but in most families mothers are taken for granted. They do all work and get no respect. Based on your reading of the story, write a paragraph on the topic: 'The Need to Respect Mothers.'

[Mother's Day]

OR

- 2. Comment on the significance of the title of the story *The Address*.*[The Address]*

All the Best!