

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER**

**2025-26**

**ENGLISH (Code No. 403)**

**CLASS-XII**

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**Time: 3 Hrs**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

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

**SECTION A : READING**

**1. Read the following text.**

1. The economic condition of low-income regions remains one of the most pressing challenges of the modern world. Their advancement is of vital importance not only for humanitarian and political reasons but also because sustained growth in these regions can significantly enhance global economic expansion and prosperity. Recognizing this, many high-income nations have implemented major aid initiatives, both directly and through international cooperation, to support development in poorer countries. They have also sought to encourage freer trade through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), allowing special arrangements that address the needs of developing economies. Nevertheless, if low-income countries are to achieve satisfactory growth, a much faster expansion of trade with high-income nations is required.
2. This statement focuses on the trade policies of high-income countries toward low-income nations. Its recommendations stem from the belief that a fairer distribution of global resources and more efficient use of labor benefit all. A liberal trade policy by wealthy nations not only supports the progress of poorer ones but, after necessary adjustments, also strengthens their own economies. Yet, it must be acknowledged that while high-income countries can provide assistance, the primary responsibility for development rests with the low-income nations themselves. Progress will be greatest where developing countries demonstrate commitment, discipline, and effective use of the aid and trade opportunities offered to them.
3. To achieve lasting growth, low-income countries must apply lessons learned from past experience. Inflation has caused serious harm, and stable financial policies are essential for encouraging domestic savings, investment, and attracting foreign capital. Prudent fiscal and monetary management, combined with an efficient financial system, can mobilize resources for productive investment and sustain faster growth. Equally important, governments must pursue policies that provide economic opportunities broadly and reduce severe social inequalities, as this fosters greater public participation in national development.
4. Development strategies have often focused too narrowly on industrial expansion. However, industrial growth cannot proceed without parallel progress in agriculture, where most of the population in low-income countries is employed. Rising agricultural productivity is crucial not only to feed growing cities and ease dependence on food imports but also to create markets for emerging industries. As agricultural surpluses in high-income countries decline, it becomes even more urgent for low-income nations to raise farm output. Greater success in agriculture will also encourage trade among developing nations themselves and boost their exports to wealthier economies.
5. The world food problem adds to the urgency. Adequate nutrition is vital for both adults and children, yet in many poor countries food production lags behind population growth, threatening chronic famine. Resolute efforts are needed to improve food production, storage, and distribution so that these nations can secure a sustainable and sufficient food supply.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i. According to paragraph 1, what is one reason why the advancement of low-income regions is considered vital? 1
  - a) It reduces military conflicts worldwide.
  - b) It can significantly enhance global economic expansion.
  - c) It eliminates the need for international organizations.
  - d) It decreases population growth in poor countries.

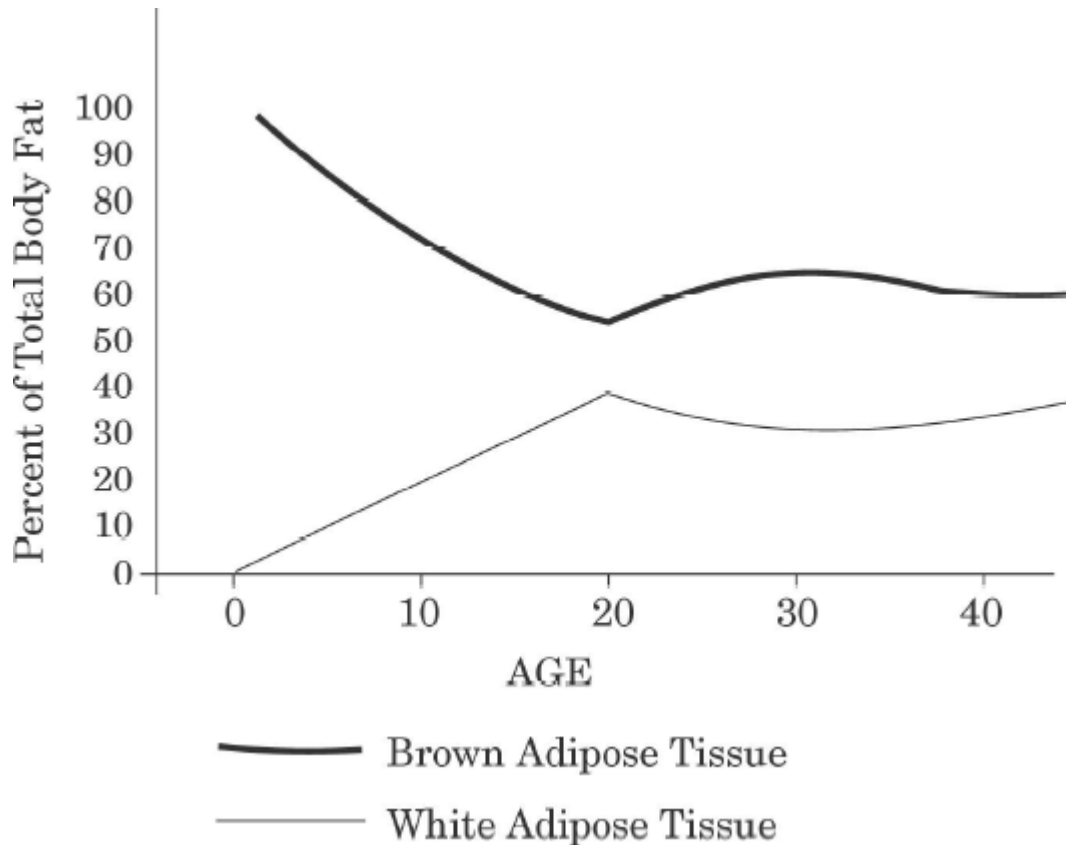
- ii. With reference to paragraph 2, who bears the primary responsibility for development according to the passage? 1
- International cooperation agencies
  - High-income nations exclusively
  - The low-income nations themselves
  - The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- iii. As mentioned in paragraph 3, what has caused serious harm to low-income countries in the past? 1
- Foreign capital investment
  - Inflation
  - Efficient financial systems
  - Domestic savings
- iv. Select the option that is a synonym of “Adequate”. 1
- Sedate
  - Emphasis
  - Accurate
  - Sufficient
- v. Why is rising agricultural productivity considered crucial for low-income countries? 1
- vi. Name the international agreement mentioned that encourages freer trade with special arrangements for developing economies. 1
- vii. How does a liberal trade policy by wealthy nations benefit both low-income countries and the wealthy nations themselves? 2
- viii. Explain the two types of policies low-income countries must pursue to achieve lasting growth. 2
- ix. According to paragraph 4, explain why development strategies that focus too narrowly on industrial expansion are inadequate for low-income countries. 2

## 2. Read the following text.

- Research by a team of scientists has uncovered a surprising way to stimulate the development of healthy fat in humans. In the long-term, the team’s findings may have implications for the development of weight loss medication. These scientists found that the kind of stress that accompanies third degree burns may induce the human body to convert normal fat cells into brown fat, which burns calories at a higher rate. If future research can determine how and where the body accomplishes this conversion, it may be possible to develop drugs that induce artificial yet remarkably rapid fat burning in obese patients.
- White adipose tissue (normal, white fat) accounts for most of the fat in the bodies of most mammals. Small mammals and newborn humans, however have a high proportion of brown fat. The difference between the two types led scientists to believe that brown fat has the potential to combat obesity. This is because brown fat contains excess of mitochondria: the structures within body cells that are responsible for producing energy. This means that brown fat burns more calories and releases more heat when it burns. After all, the function of naturally occurring brown fat is to generate heat in small animals, or in human infants, who do not yet have the ability to shiver.
- The research began with the observation that patients with severe, widespread burns needed to consume more calories each day in order to maintain their weight. On studying the fat cells of 48 severe burn patients throughout their treatment, analysis of the fat samples revealed that what was once white adipose tissue had ‘browned’, acquiring many characteristics similar to brown fat. This included its ability to burn fat at a high rate.

4. Of course, we are still a long way from the practical applications of these findings. This research however indicates the possibility of converting white fat into brown and reveals something about the conditions that catalyze such a conversion.

### BODY FAT CHANGES



Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. According to the research, what triggers the conversion of white fat into brown fat? 1
- Recreational activities
  - Exposure to cold
  - Stress from third-degree burns
  - None of the above
- ii. What is the rationale behind scientists' belief that brown fat has the potential to combat obesity? 1
- It has more water content
  - It contains more mitochondria
  - It stores more fat
  - It has fewer blood vessels
- iii. According to the graph, at birth, what percentage of total body fat is brown adipose tissue approximately? 1
- 0%
  - 40%
  - 20%
  - 100%

- iv. Around what age does white adipose tissue start decreasing? 1
- 0 years
  - 50 years
  - 20 years
  - 40 years
- v. What is the main function of brown adipose tissue in newborns? 1
- vi. According to the graph, does the proportion of brown adipose tissue increase or decrease during teenage? 1
- vii. How could the findings from burn patients potentially help in developing weight-loss treatments? 2
- viii. Describe the trends shown in the graph for both brown and white adipose tissue from birth to age 50. 2

### SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. You are Pushkar Singh/Priya Bisht, a member of the Mountain Heritage Club, Mussoorie. The club is planning to organise a clean-up drive of the Mall Road and surrounding hills every Saturday morning to promote local tourism. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the residents of the drive and inviting volunteers. Include all the necessary details. Put your notice in a box. 4

OR

You are Dev Negi/Devika Joshi, the Sports Captain of Pine View Academy, Almora. Your school is organising an 'Inter-House Volleyball Tournament' next month. Draft a notice in about 50 words, inviting students to register their teams and attend the try-outs. Include all the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

4. As the Cultural Secretary of Himalayan Public School, Rishikesh, draft an invitation for the Annual Folk Dance Competition, inviting Professor Tara Verma, an acclaimed local choreographer, to perform and judge the event. Provide the essential details in about 50 words. 4

OR

You are Maya Joshi/Mayank Tamta, currently residing at 22, Valley View Apartments, Dehradun. You have been invited to inaugurate a literature festival at your alma mater, Grand Peaks College, Mussoorie. Write a formal reply in about 50 words, accepting the invitation and expressing your gratitude.

5. You are Manish Rawat/Rita Gwal from 45/C, third floor, Kothal Gate, Nainital. You have come across the following advertisement in The Kumaon Chronicle for the post of a Librarian at a new school. Write a letter expressing your interest in the position. Include your bio-data along with the application. 5

#### Join the Mountain View School

We are a new institution looking for dynamic individuals with:

- Excellent organizational and cataloging skills
- A passion for encouraging reading among students
- Ability to manage digital and physical resources

**Educational Requirements:** Graduate in Library Science or related field

**Experience:** Mandatory, minimum 2 years' experience in a school library is preferred Interested candidates should send their applications with a resume.

**Contact:** Mountain View School, Address: 15, Tallital Road, Nainital, 263001

OR

You are Suman Thapliyal/Sunita Upadhyay, residing at 18-B, Rajpur Road, Dehradun. Write a letter to the editor of The Himalayan Times, highlighting the urgent need for better waste management and sanitation facilities in the city to protect its scenic beauty. Emphasise the importance of public cooperation and local body action. Draft the letter using your own ideas as well as the cues given:

- Impact of littering on tourist footfall and local environment.
- Need for regular waste collection and recycling initiatives.
- Importance of installing more public dustbins and signages.
- Building a sense of responsibility among residents and tourists.

6. The increasing trend of migration from the hills to the plains poses a significant challenge to the development and cultural preservation of Uttarakhand's villages. You are Kabir Pant/Kamini Goswami. Write an article for the monthly magazine edition of The Mountain Voice and discuss the impact of this phenomenon on village life. 5

OR

The concept of 'homestays' has emerged as a popular and sustainable model for tourism in the scenic villages of Uttarakhand, offering economic benefits to local communities. You are Ria Chauhan/Rohit Tyagi. Write an article for the travel magazine Devbhoomi Destinations and discuss the role of homestays in promoting responsible tourism.

### SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXT BOOK AND SUPPLIMENTRY READING TEXT

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.

*I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open-mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with  
pain*

- i. Where was the poet driving to? 1
- a) Home to the Cochin airport
  - b) To Home
  - c) The Cochin airport to home
  - d) None of these
- ii. Who is I? 1
- a) The poet
  - b) A little girl
  - c) A young boy
  - d) A doctor
- iii. What did the poet realise with pain? 1

- iv. How did the poet feel about this realization? 1
- v. Which literary device is used in the extract? 1
- vi. What did the poet say to her mother after the airport's security check? 1

OR

*A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,  
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,  
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow  
supports  
The flower of cities from sinking and withering  
faint.*

- i. Why is it unfair to say that these people are begging for a dole of bread? 1
- a) Because they are unreasonably begging for money
  - b) Because they have something to sell
  - c) Because they don't have anything to sell
  - d) As they shamelessly beg for bread
- ii. Identify the phrase that suggests the following: 1
- They plead to the rich city dwellers to buy something.
- iii. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do NOT repeat from used example. 1
- A roadside stand that too pathetically pled : personification :: flower of cities : \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract. 1
- The word which signifies the poor and sorrowful condition of the owners of the stand \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. What is it that the village folk are desperate for? 1
- vi. The poor people look at the city money for their 1
- a) survival and betterment
  - b) sorrow and misery
  - c) growth and opportunity
  - d) repayment of loans

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given.

Antarctica, because of her simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Take the microscopic phytoplankton- those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean's food chain. These single-celled plants use the sun's energy to assimilate carbon and synthesise organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of process called photosynthesis. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of phytoplankton, which in turn will affect the lives of all the marine animals and birds of the region, and the global carbon cycle. In the parable of the phytoplankton, there is a great metaphor for existence: take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place.

- i. Why is Antarctica considered ideal for studying environmental change? 1
- ii. "take care of small things and the big things will fall into place", What is the relevance of this statement in the context of the Antarctica's environment? 1
- iii. Which of the following poses the greatest threat to the overall health of Antarctic marine life? 1
  - a) depletion in the ozone layer
  - b) The discovery of new mineral resources for extraction.
  - c) A significant decrease in the human population.
  - d) The introduction of new plant and animal species to the ecosystem.
- iv. The word 'metaphor' used in the extract means: 1
  - a) cause
  - b) effect
  - c) symbol
  - d) analysis

OR

But the utter pallor of the man's unconscious face moved him first to stoop and feel his pulse. It was faint but it was there. He put his hand against the man's cold breast. The heart too was yet alive. "He will die unless he is operated on," Sadao said, considering. "The question is whether he will not die anyway." Hana cried out in fear. "Don't try to save him! What if he should live?" "What if he should die?" Sadao replied. He stood gazing down on the motionless man. This man must have extraordinary vitality or he would have been dead by now.

- i. What motivates Sadao to consider surgery despite the risks? 1
- ii. Pick the idiom that best describes the situation in which Sadao and Hana were in. 1
  - a) to be like a fish out of water
  - b) like water off a duck's back
  - c) to be dead in the water
  - d) to be in hot water.
- iii. Which lines best describes Hana's state of mind? 1
- iv. Where did Sadao and Hana find the American soldier? 1
  - a) the sea coast
  - b) Korea
  - c) the battlefield
  - d) at the museum in Tokyo

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given.

My breath was gone. I was frightened. Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves. My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days and was just beginning to feel at ease in the water when the misadventure happened.

- i. Write down the phrase from the extract above that shows that 'the fear of water was brought back to his mind'. 1
- ii. Identify the phrase that allows the reader to infer that the author began feeling comfortable in the water. 1
- iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1
  - (1) The author's father laughed to mock his son's inability to swim.
  - (2) The author gathered confidence by watching and copying other boys.

- a) (1) Can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
- b) (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
- c) (1) is true but (2) is false.
- d) (2) is the reason for (1).

- iv. The misadventure that took place right after the author felt comfortable was that 1
- a) the author slipped and fell into the swimming pool
  - b) a bully tossed him into the pool for the sake of fun
  - c) his coach forgot to teach him how to handle deep water
  - d) his father couldn't help him from drowning into the water

- v. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy: 1
- mustered: gathered:: copying: \_\_\_\_\_

- vi. What is the author's name? 1

OR

The news of Gandhi's advent and of the nature of his mission spread quickly through Muzaffarpur and to Champaran. Sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot and by conveyance to see their champion. Muzaffarpur lawyers called on Gandhi to brief him; they frequently represented peasant groups in court, they told him about their cases and reported the size of their fee.

- i. The word "sharecroppers" in the passage refers to ..... 1
- ii. What was the response of the sharecroppers to Gandhi's arrival in Muzaffarpur? 1
- iii. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1
  - (1) Gandhi was very popular
  - (2) A number of peasants were visiting him.
  - a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
  - b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 true.
  - c) Both the statements are true.
  - d) Both the statements are false

- iv. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract. 1

The news of Gandhi's departure and the purpose of his mission spread through Muzaffarpur.

- v. Which of the following purpose of Gandhi's mission can be inferred from the given extract? 1
- a) To teach self-dependence
  - b) To start a result
  - c) To help the poor peasants
  - d) To chide the lawyers

- vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1

In the given extract, "their cases" refer to the cases that the lawyers were fighting for/against \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

5x2=10

- i. Did the stranger agree to go to the ironmaster's house? Why or why not?
- ii. The poet, Pablo Neruda, does not want total inactivity or death. What then does he expect from people?
- iii. What evidence from the text reveals that Rudyard Kipling did not want to talk?
- iv. How did Sophie's father react when Geoff told him about meeting with Danny Casey?
- v. Who was the English visitor to the studio and what was the purpose of his visit?
- vi. What is the endless fountain of immortal drink and why does the poet call it immortal?

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

2x2=4

- i. What made Charley return from the third level at the Grand Central?
- ii. Why was Zitkala-Sa so bent upon not having her hair cut?
- iii. What message did the messenger in official uniform bring for Sadao? Why were Hana and Sadao both relieved on getting the message?

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

How does the story, 'Lost Spring' highlight the apathy of society and those in power to end the vicious cycle of poverty? Support your answer with textual evidence.

**OR**

How do 'Indigo' by Louis Fischer and 'The Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost, highlight the theme of exploitation, and what similarities do they reveal about the plight of marginalised communities?

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

"A chance meeting with Mr. Lamb not only changed Derry's perception and attitude towards life but also gave him the much needed impetus and confidence to take on the challenges of life." Comment.

**OR**

Analyse how the narrative technique used in 'The Tiger King', enhances the impact of the story on the reader.