

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER  
ENGLISH ELECTIVE  
SUBJECT CODE 001  
CLASS XII (2023-2024)**

**Total Time: 3 hours**

**Marks: 80 Marks**

**General instructions**

1. This paper is divided in THREE sections.

SECTION A -READING

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING

SECTION C- LITERATURE & FICTION

2. Separate instructions are given with each part and question, wherever necessary. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.

3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION A  
READING COMPREHENSION**

**1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (Any Twelve)**

**12**

1. The man with the white face entered the carriage at Rugby. He moved slowly in spite of the urgency of his porter, and even while he was still on the platform I noted how ill he seemed. He dropped into the corner over against me with a sigh, made an incomplete attempt to arrange his travelling shawl and became motionless, with his eyes staring vacantly. Presently he was moved by a sense of my observation, looked up at me, and put out a spiritless hand for his newspaper. Then he glanced again in my direction. I feigned to read. I feared I had unwittingly embarrassed him, and in a moment I was surprised to find him speaking.

2. "I beg your pardon?" said I.

"That book," he repeated, pointing a lean finger, "is about dreams."

"Obviously," I answered, for it was Fortnum Roscoe's Dream States, and the title was on the cover.

He hung silent for a space as if he sought words.

"Yes," he said at last, "but they tell you nothing."

I did not catch his meaning for a second.

"They don't know," he added. I looked a little more attentively at his face.

"There are dreams," he said, "and dreams."

That sort of proposition I never dispute.

"I suppose--" he hesitated. "Do you ever dream? I mean vividly."

"I dream very little," I answered. "I doubt if I have three vivid dreams in a year."

"Ah!" he said and seemed for a moment to collect his thoughts.

"Your dreams don't mix with your memories?" he asked abruptly.

"You don't find yourself in doubt; did this happen or did it not?"

"Hardly ever. Except just for a momentary hesitation now and then. I suppose few people do."

"Does he say--?" He indicated the book.

"Says it happens at times and gives the usual explanation about intensity of impression and the like to account for its not happening as a rule. I suppose you know something of these theories--"  
"Very little--except that they are wrong."

3. His emaciated hand played with the strap of the window for a time. I prepared to resume reading, and that seemed to precipitate his next remark. He leant forward almost as though he would touch me.

"Isn't there something called consecutive dreaming--that goes on night after night?"

"I believe there is. There are cases given in most books on mental trouble."

"Mental trouble! Yes. I daresay there are. It's the right place for them. But what I mean--" He looked at his bony knuckles. "Is that sort of thing always dreaming? Is it dreaming?"

Or is it something else? Mightn't it be something else?"

4. I should have snubbed his persistent conversation but for the drawn anxiety of his face. I remember now the look of his faded eyes and the lids red stained--perhaps you know that look.

"I'm not just arguing about a matter of opinion," he said.

"The thing's killing me."

"Dreams?"

"If you call them dreams. Night after night. Vivid!--so vivid . . . this--" (he indicated the landscape that went streaming by the window) "seems unreal in comparison! I can scarcely remember who I am, what business I am on . . ." He paused. "Even now--"

"The dream is always the same--do you mean?" I asked.

"It's over."

"You mean?"

"I died."

"Died?"

5. "Smashed and killed, and now, so much of me as that dream was, is dead. Dead forever. I dreamt I was another man, you know, living in a different part of the world and in a different time. I dreamt that night after night. Night after night I woke into that other life. Fresh scenes and fresh happenings--until I came upon the last--"

"When you died?"

"When I died."

"And since then--"

"No," he said. "Thank God! That was the end of the dream. . ."

6. It was clear I was in for this dream. And after all, I had an hour before me, the light was fading fast, and Fortnum Roscoe has a dreary way with him. "Living in a different time," I said: "do you mean in some different age?"

"Yes."

"Past?"

"No, to come--to come."

"The year three thousand, for example?"

"I don't know what year it was. I did when I was asleep, when I was dreaming, that is, but not now--not now that I am awake.

There's a lot of things I have forgotten since I woke out of these dreams, though I knew them at the time when I was--I suppose it was dreaming. They called the year differently from our way of calling the year . . . What did they call it?" He put his hand to his forehead. "No," said he, "I forget." He sat smiling weakly. For a moment I feared he did not mean to tell me his dream. As a rule, I hate people who tell their dreams, but this struck me differently. I proffered assistance even. "It began--" I suggested.

7. "It was vivid from the first. I seemed to wake up in it suddenly. And it's curious that in these dreams I am speaking of I never remembered this life I am living now. It seemed as if the dream life was enough while it

lasted. Perhaps--But I will tell you how I find myself when I do my best to recall it all. I don't remember anything clearly until I found myself sitting in a sort of loggia looking out over the sea. I had been dozing, and suddenly I woke up--fresh and vivid--not a bit dreamlike—because the girl had stopped fanning me." (956 words)

-adapted from **A Dream of Armageddon** by **H.G.Wells**

**On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, choose the correct option to answer the following questions: (Any Twelve)**

- (a) How did the man with the white face behave as he entered the carriage?
- (i) Excited and enthusiastic
  - (ii) Scared
  - (iii) Excited and nervous
  - (iv) showed no enthusiasm.
- (b) What was the name of the book which the narrator was reading?
- (i) Fortnum Roscoe's Dream States
  - (ii) Dream States
  - (iii) Dreams of the States
  - (iv) State of the Dream
- (c) What was the man's opinion about the theory of dreams given in the narrator's book?
- (i) He felt that it was all correct
  - (ii) He felt the book painted a wrong picture.
  - (iii) He felt that the book explained nothing.
  - (iv) He felt that the book was confusing.
- (d) Statement 1: The narrator couldn't snub the man's conversation.  
Statement 2: The man with the white face looked anxious.
- (i) Both 1 & 2 are correct and 2 is the reason for 1.
  - (ii) Both 1 & 2 are correct and 2 is not the reason for 1.
  - (iii) 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect.
  - (iv) Both 1 & 2 are incorrect.
- (e) What is NOT the reason for narrator being interested in listening to the man's description of his last dream?
- (i) The man's dream was about an alien.
  - (ii) It was getting dark.
  - (iii) The narrator had still an hour's journey left.
  - (iv) His book was getting boring.
- (f) What did the man NOT say about the last dream which he had?
- (i) It was a dream which wasn't clear.
  - (ii) He was sitting in the loggia.
  - (iii) His last dream was very clear.
  - (iv) He would wake up in these dreams suddenly.
- (g) Choose the correct option:  
Which of the following is NOT true for the Man with the white face?
- (i) He moved around slowly.
  - (ii) He looked sickly.

- (iii) He didn't want to talk about his dream.
- (iv) He didn't believe in theories of Fortnum Roscoe's Dream States

(h) "I dream very little," I answered. "I doubt if I have three vivid dreams in a year. This line highlights that the narrator did not –

- (i) Have normal dreams.
- (ii) Good sleep pattern.
- (iii) Give much importance to the science behind dreams.
- (iv) like talking to the man with the white face.

(i) How does the use of vivid and descriptive language in the passage enhance the reader's understanding of the man's experience?

(j) Complete the sentence appropriately.

It is fair to say that the man's experience of consecutive dreaming is similar with being lost in a maze because \_\_\_\_\_.

(k) Choose the right answer which explains the phrase:

He hung silent for a space as if he sought words.

- (i) he was at a loss of words.
- (ii) he was indecisive.
- (iii) he was left hanging because of his indecisiveness.
- (iv) he stayed silent for some time as if he searched for words.

(l) State whether the following opinion is TRUE or FALSE.

The author implies that memory and consciousness are not objective, but rather are shaped by our subjective experiences and perceptions.

(m) What does the man with the white face, most likely mean by "there are dreams, and dreams"? (Reference-paragraph 2)

(n) What do the man's "vacant" stare and "spiritless" hand suggest about his condition?

(o) In paragraph 2, the narrator says, "I did not catch his meaning for a second."

Which of the following expressions correctly display the usage of "catch"?

- (a) catch a glimpse      (b) catch a hunger      (c) catch an anger
- (d) catch a skill

**2** Read the poem '*Digging*' by Seamus Heaney, given below.

Between my finger and my thumb  
 The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.  
 Under my window, a clean rasping sound  
 When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:  
 My father, digging. I look down  
 Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds  
 Bends low, comes up twenty years away  
 Stooping in rhythm through potato drills  
 Where he was digging.

[1X4  
=4]

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft  
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.  
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep  
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,  
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

Digging by Seamus Heaney

**Based on your understanding of the poem, answer FOUR of five given questions.**

(a) What is the significance of the comparison of the pen to a gun in the second line of the poem?

(i) It highlights the violence and aggression associated with writing.

(ii) It emphasizes the power of the written word to bring about change.

(iii) It suggests that the act of writing can be just as dangerous as using a weapon.

(iv) It demonstrates the speaker's admiration for their father's skill with both a pen and a spade.

(b) Which of the following statements best describes the speaker's attitude towards his father's work in the poem?

i. The speaker admires his father's hard work and dedication to his task.

ii. The speaker is critical of his father's choice of profession and feels it is beneath him.

iii. The speaker is indifferent to his father's work and does not place much value on it.

iv. The speaker is resentful of his father for making them participate in the work.

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The poet's use of a metaphor in the line "*The coarse boot nestled on the lug, ...*" compares

\_\_\_\_\_.

(d) What can be inferred about the setting of the poem based on the description of the sound of the spade sinking into the ground?

(i) The setting is rural and quiet.

(ii) The setting is urban and noisy.

(iii) The setting is industrial, yet serene.

(iv) The setting is suburban and bustling.

(e) What is the effect of the repetition of the word "digging" throughout the poem?

**3** Read the passage given below.

Most cities, may not be prohibit hawking as a profession, but do place restrictions on the use

[1X4  
=4]

of urban space. Therefore, a comprehensive study was conducted in 1998-99 on street vending, to provide concrete data for furthering the cause of the hawkers.

Eight cities were selected—Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Imphal, Patna, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore.

Three points were important while selecting respondents –hawkers were from different parts of a city; sold a variety of goods and adequate numbers of women were covered. The questionnaire was included questions on personal details, details regarding the work and the hazards faced.

Table : Results of the survey

CITIES	AVERAGE INCOME/DAY	SOURCE OF CAPITAL			
		Moneylenders	Credit societies/ Unions	Goods directly from wholesalers	Self. Friends/ Relatives
Patna	₹ 50	79%	12%		
Bhubaneswar	₹ 60	19%		48%	33%
Bangalore	Females ₹ 35-50 Males ₹ 65-100	Nearly all			
Imphal	₹ 40	No information listed			
Indore	No data--Study could not take off				
Ahmedabad	Females ₹ 35-70 Males ₹ 50-100			Nearly all	
Mumbai	₹ 50-80	No information listed			40%
Kolkata	₹ 70-100		Nearly all		

It is fair to say that hawkers cannot be removed, because apart from their own livelihood, their services benefit the common urban dweller.

(120 words)

Adapted from: <https://www.wiego.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/Bhowmik-Hawkers-URBAN-INFORMAL-SECTOR.pdf>

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer FOUR of five given questions.**

(a) Fill in the blank by selecting the appropriate option.

The study aims to \_\_\_\_\_ the practice of street vending in urban spaces.

- (i) support
- (ii) discourage
- (iii) understand
- (iv) prove

(b) Jagan goes door to door with his basket of goods to sell bananas in the city. What action from his end would lead to a prohibition on hawking?

(c) State TRUE or FALSE

The following question could have been a part of the study survey.

	<p><i>Question: What are the challenges presented by the security guards?</i></p> <p>(d) Complete the sentence appropriately. The most preferred form of source of capital, according to the survey table, exposes the hawkers to exploitation because _____.</p> <p>(e) State a point in support for the given opinion: <i>Street vending must be legalised as a profession.</i></p>	
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**SECTION B  
APPLIED GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING**

<b>4</b>	<p><b>Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions. (Any eight)</b></p> <p><b>(a) The librarian orders books for the school library every year.</b> (Begin: Books...)</p> <p><b>(b) No one will deny that the children have worked very hard this year.</b> (Begin: Everyone...)</p> <p><b>(c) As soon as the teacher enters, she is greeted by her students.</b> (Begin: No sooner...)</p> <p><b>(d) She is so busy that she finds no time to entertain her friends.</b> (Rewrite using 'too')</p> <p><b>(e) In spite of the very hot weather, Kevin stepped out to buy some bread.</b> (Begin: Despite...)</p> <p><b>(f) Sheela will be selected for the competition only if she goes for the auditions.</b> (Begin: Unless...)</p> <p><b>(g) I would rather eat fruit than a lot of unhealthy junk food.</b> (Begin: I prefer...)</p> <p><b>(h) The tree was cut down ruthlessly.</b> (Begin: They...)</p> <p><b>(i) The old woman said to Arun, "Can you help me to cross the street?"</b> (Begin: The old woman asked Arun .....)</p> <p><b>(j) How cruel Shylock was to demand his pound of flesh!</b> (Begin: It was cruel.....)</p>	<b>[1X8 = 8]</b>
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<b>5</b>	<p><b>Attempt any three of the following four questions in 120-150 words each.</b></p> <p>(a) <i>"What man calls civilization always results in deserts. Man is never on the square he uses up the fat and greenery of the earth. Each generation wastes a little more of the future with greed and lust for riches"- Don Marquis</i></p> <p>With our modern awareness of ecology are we likely to make sufficient progress in conservation, or are we still in danger of damaging the earth beyond repair? Write a discursive essay discussing the issue being raised.</p> <p>(b) <i>"That which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only which gives everything its value."- Thomas Paine</i></p>	<b>[5X3= 15]</b>
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	<p>Do we value only what we struggle for? Plan your response, and then write an essay to explain your views on this issue. Be sure to support your position with specific points and examples. (You may use examples from your reading, observations, and inputs from subjects such as History, Science and literature)</p> <p><i>(c) Certainly anyone who insists on condemning all lies should think about what would happen if we could reliably tell when our family, friends, colleagues, and government leaders were deceiving us. It is tempting to think that the world would become a better place without the deceptions that seem to interfere with our attempts at genuine communication. On the other hand, perhaps there is such a thing as too much honesty. - Adapted from Allison Kornet, "The Truth About Lying</i></p> <p>Would the world be a better place if everyone always told the complete truth? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.</p> <p><i>(d) It is widely believed that people do their best work when they are promised rewards for their achievements. Our schools and workplaces operate on the assumption that good work occurs when people are competing for grades, money, or recognition from others. In truth, the prospect of rewards provided by others can inhibit and limit people's drive and creativity. People do their best work when motivated from within by their enjoyment of a particular challenge and their satisfaction in doing something well.</i></p> <p>What do you think motivates people to do their best? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observation.</p>		
6	<p>You are the editor of your school magazine. You have recently attended a cultural programme in your city. Write a report of this programme in about 120-150 words using the points given below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 1325 1118 1440"> <tr> <td>Date and venue – occasion – Chief Guest – other invitees – inauguration – events – other important features – highlights – reaction of audience – conclusion</td> </tr> </table>	Date and venue – occasion – Chief Guest – other invitees – inauguration – events – other important features – highlights – reaction of audience – conclusion	[5x1=5]
Date and venue – occasion – Chief Guest – other invitees – inauguration – events – other important features – highlights – reaction of audience – conclusion			
<b>SECTION C- TEXTBOOK &amp; FICTION</b>			
7 i	<p><b>(a) Read the extracts given below and attempt one out of the two.</b></p> <p>During the morning nobody worried about the car encrusted in the wall, for people assumed it was one of those that had been parked on the pavement. But when the crane lifted it out of its setting, the body of a woman was found secured behind the steering wheel by a seat belt. The blow had been so brutal that not a single one of her bones was left whole. Her face was destroyed, her boots had been ripped apart and her clothes were in shreds. She wore a gold ring shaped like a serpent, with emerald eyes.”</p> <p>a. Who wore a gold ring? b. How did she make her living? c. What state was ‘She’ discovered in?</p>	[1x6=6]	

- d. Why did the author mention the snake ring?  
 e. Why did no one bother about the damaged car?  
 f. Which word can be a good synonym for brutal?

- (i) Brash (ii) ebullient  
 (iii) cruel (iv) crass

**OR**

**(b)** “He was tall, slim, blond, blue eyed. His hair was thinning, had turned somewhat grey, but he managed to disguise these signs of age. He stooped a little, but in company was quick to straighten up. Years ago in Germany he had worn a monocle...”

- a. Who does ‘he’ refer to?  
 b. What signs of age were evident on him?  
 c. ‘But in company was quick to straighten up....’ What does this phrase reflect about ‘him’?  
 d. Pick out the word from the extract which means to conceal one’s appearance by using wigs/glasses etc.

- (i) straighten (ii) disguise  
 (iii) monocle (iv) stooped

- (e) What had happened to his uncle?  
 (f) Give a brief description of him.

**7** **(a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:**

**ii** *To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love*  
*All pray in their distress;*  
*And to these virtues of delight*  
*Return their thankfulness.*  
*For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love*  
*Is God, our Father dear,*  
*And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love*  
*Is man, His child and care.*  
*For Mercy has a human heart,*  
*Pity a human face,*  
*And Love, the human form divine,*  
*And Peace, the human dress.*

*Then every man, of every clime,*  
*That prays in his distress,*  
*Prays to the human form divine,*  
*Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.*

- (a) What is the central message of the poem?  
 (b) What is the significance of the repetition of "Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love" throughout the poem?  
 (c) What is the meaning of the phrase "the human form divine" in the poem?

**[1x6  
=6]**

	<p>(d) In what ways does the poem reflect Blake's religious beliefs and philosophy?  (e) How does the poem address the themes of compassion and unity across cultures and religions?  (f) Pick out the word from the stanza which is an antonym of 'earthly'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>(b) Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:</b>  <i>Stand still, and I will read to thee</i>  <i>A Lecture, Love, in Love's philosophy.</i></p> <p><i>These three hours that we have spent,  Walking here, two shadows went  Along with us, which we ourselves produced;  But, now the sun is just above our head,  We do those shadows tread,  And to brave clearness all things are reduced.</i></p> <p><i>So whilst our infant loves did grow,  Disguises did, and shadows, flow  From us, and our cares; but now 'tis not so.  That love has not attain'd the high'st degree,  Which is still diligent lest others see.</i></p> <p>(a) What is the central message of the poem?  (b) What is the significance of the shadows in the poem?  (c) What is the meaning of the phrase "Love's philosophy" in the poem?  (d) In what ways does the poem reflect Milton's view of love and relationships?  (e) How does the poem use imagery and figurative language to convey its message?  (f) Pick out the word from the extract which is an apt synonym of 'conscientious'.</p>	
8	<p><b>Answer any one of the following two questions in 30-40 words.</b>  a) What are the contrasts in "The Wild Swans at Coole" by W.B. Yeats?  OR  b) Why did Dr. Margolin not want to attend the wedding at Brownsville?</p>	[2X1 =2]
9	<p><b>Answer any one of the following two questions in 40-50 words each.</b>  (a) Why did Eveline let go of the opportunity to escape?  OR  (b) What makes Marquez call Neruda a renaissance pope?</p>	[3X1 =3]
10	<p><b>Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words each.</b>  (a) Comment on the significance of the river Alph in "Kubla Khan"?  OR  (b) "Chandalika" is a powerful exploration of the intersection of caste, gender, and identity in Indian society. Elucidate.</p>	[5X1 =5]
11	<p><b>Answer any one of the following questions in 30-40 words.</b>  a) What is the significance of the title "A Tiger for Malgudi"?  OR</p>	[2X1 =2]

	<p>b) What lesson is learnt by the tragic event at the end of the novel? OR</p> <p>c) Explain the meaning of the name 'Margayya' in the novel 'The Financial Expert'. OR</p> <p>d) Describe No 14 D Vinayaka Street.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Answer any one of the following questions in 40-50 words</b></p> <p>a) How does Narayan use symbolism to represent Raja's character in the novel? OR</p> <p>b) How does Narayan use humor in the novel, and what effect does it have on the story? OR</p> <p>c) Comment on the father-son relationship in the novel 'The Financial Expert.' OR</p> <p>d) Describe briefly Margayya's newfound career in the publishing house</p>	<b>[3X1=3]</b>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words.</b></p> <p>(a) The Grand Malgudi Circus is a prominent setting in R.K. Narayan's novel "A Tiger for Malgudi. Discuss. OR</p> <p>(b) How does "A Tiger for Malgudi" explore the theme of the relationship between humans and animals? OR</p> <p>(c) Lakshmi Holmstrom in "The Novels of R. K. Narayan" Calcutta: Writers Workshop Publication, 1973, comments "Different abilities and values are opposed and matched until Pal becomes a "nightmare to Margayya". Keeping the above statement in mind, trace the evolution of Margayya and Mr. Pal's relationship. OR</p> <p>(d) "A man whom the goddess of wealth favours need not worry much. He can buy all the knowledge he requires. He can afford to buy all gifts that Goddess Saraswathi holds in her palm" In the light of the above lines, elaborate the relation of the human and divine realms in R.K. Narayan's, The Financial Expert.</p>	<b>[5X1=5]</b>