

Jb Academy
Half Yearly Examination (2025-26)

Class 12, Sub : English

General Instructions:

- (i) The Question Paper contains THREE sections – READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- (ii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A: READING SKILLS [22 Marks]

1. Read the text given below: (12 Marks)

1. Like their ancient toga-wearing counterparts, modern philosophers continue to disagree on the nature of free will. Do we really have any control over the choices we make and the things we do, and if so, to what degree?

2. Theories of free will vary, but the ancient words of Plato still line up with our modern perceptions of temptation and willpower. The revered Greek philosopher argued that the human experience is one of constant struggle between the intellect and the body, between rationality and desire. Along these lines, true freedom is only achievable when willpower unchains us from bodily, emotional, instinctual slavery.

3. You can find similar sentiments throughout world religions, most of which offer a particular and often difficult path to rise above our darker natures. And science? Well, science mostly agrees with all of this. Willpower is all about overcoming your natural impulses to eat cupcakes, skip your morning workout, hit the snooze alarm and check your email during a funeral.

4. Your willpower, however, is limited. If life were a video game, you'd see a glowing "willpower" or "ego" metre at the top of the screen next to your "life" metre. Successfully resist one temptation, and the metre drains a bit. The next temptation depletes the "willpower" metre even more, until there's nothing left at all.

5. Our modern scientific understanding of willpower in large part stems from a 1996 research experiment involving chocolate and radishes. Psychologist Roy Baumeister led a study in which 67 test subjects were presented with a difficult puzzle and cookies and other chocolate-flavoured treats before a persistence-testing puzzle. Here's the catch: the chocolate chip cookies and chocolates abstained from tasted as good as radishes. Baumeister's results told a fascinating story. The test subjects who resisted the sweet stuff in favour of radishes performed poorly on the persistence test. They simply didn't have the willpower left to resist slacking off.

6. The resulting paper, "Ego Depletion: Is the Active Self a Limited Resource?" inspired more than a thousand additional studies discussing everything from the influence of positive messages to the ego-sapping power of daily decisions.

7. Studies also show that cognitive capacity also affects our ability to hold out against temptation. Cognitive capacity is essentially your working memory, which you employ when resisting a temptation ... or holding a string of numbers in your head. A 1999 study from the University of Iowa professor Baba Shiv found that people tasked with remembering a two-digit number held out better than people remembering a seven-digit number when tempted with chocolate cake.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(a) Select the option that corresponds to the opinion of the revered Greek philosopher:

(i) True freedom is an idealistic concept.

(ii) The idea of free will is a myth.

(iii) True freedom can be attained with discipline in our willpower.

(iv) Temptations cannot be overcome because of inherent human tendencies.

(b) In the second paragraph, what does the expression 'line up' signify?

(i) Align with

(ii) Disagree with

(iii) Differ from

(iv) In discussion with

(c) Share evidence from the passage that proves the writing style of the passage is mostly descriptive and factual. (40 words) (2)

(d) Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description.

The video game example with willpower metre depleting with every temptation suggests that humans are ____

(e) Why, in your opinion, does the writer mention 'religion' in this context?

(i) To create a propaganda about the topic

(ii) To displease people's sentiments

(iii) To convey that it gives an alternative opinion on willpower

(iv) To associate willpower with a common element of religion

f) Elucidate the critical analysis of the 1996 research experiment in about 40 words. (2)

(g) Pick a sentence from the text that bears evidence to the significance of cognitive capacity in terms of temptation.

(h) Is the author trying to suggest that temptations cannot be overcome by human beings? Give reason(s) for your answer in 40 words. (2)

(i) Which of the following headlines suits the above passage?

- (a) Control: Not a Choice, But an Illusion
- (b) Free Will and Willpower: A Discourse
- (c) Temptations: The Social Evils
- (d) Science Vs Religion

2. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow :-

ChatGPT has been gaining attention for how closely it mimics human-like responses. Created by OpenAI in 2022, it is a chatbot that has been trained to have knowledge of worldly events and phenomena up to September 2021 and to interpret the context of texts to produce meaningful responses. The tool can provide answers on many topics, and often states disclaimers if it cannot answer a prompt accurately. Unlike a search engine, it cannot browse the internet for information. It also does not collect any personal information of users.

A survey was administered to understand the uses of ChatGPT in the fields of education, healthcare and research. There were 420 participants in the study of which 59 respondents were from the medical field, 118 respondents were students and faculty from the research field, 70 respondents identified as medical students, and 173 people marked 'other' as their occupation. Of the 420 respondents, only 40% had used ChatGPT before. More medical trainees and students as well as research students had used ChatGPT as compared to medical staff and research faculty.

The survey asked about the viability of ChatGPT for its use within the fields of education, research, and healthcare. The following table summarises the responses.

Based on the responses, there was a greater uncertainty around its use in healthcare and education, compared to using it in research. Regarding the use of ChatGPT in healthcare, a significant portion of respondents (42%) approved of using it for administrative purposes (for example, preparing patient

profiles or reports) and a smaller population of respondents (12.2%) felt it could be used for any purpose.

The current application of ChatGPT and its future potential needs to be examined. It can help students understand texts and write more effectively, simplify medical information for patients and automate administrative tasks, and prepare a summary of information which otherwise would require hours of reading through various resources. However, its negative impact must also be considered before institutions approve its use.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(a) Complete the given sentence in ONE word.

Based on the summary table, the __ number of respondents think that ChatGPT should not be used.

(b) The following was a prompt posted by a user in ChatGPT as their first question: 'What's my name?'

Based on information from the passage, which of these is most likely to be ChatGPT's response?

(i) 'Error 404: page not found.'

(ii) 'Your name is user 1000004.'

(iii) 'Sorry, can you repeat the question?'

(iv) 'Sorry, I don't have access to your data.'

(c) Imagine that you have to write a news report on a major landslide that occurred in Manipur on 30 June, 2022. Would using only ChatGPT be useful for your project? State why or why not in 40 words. (2)

(d) The following are the profiles of some respondents from the survey. Based on the passage, which of these profiles is MOST LIKELY to be a part of the 40% who have used ChatGPT before?

(i) a manager in a hospital who has done 5 years of administrative work

(ii) a professor of Psychology who has 30 years of teaching experience

(iii) a college graduate who is studying in a 2-year Master's course

(iv) a 25-year-old teacher who is working in a public school

(e) Which of these is true about the respondents of the survey?

(i) It had 118 respondents who were employed in the field of education.

(ii) It had 70 respondents who had administrative roles in educational institutions.

(iii) It had 173 respondents who were working in the field of research including students.

(iv) It had 59 respondents who were from the medical field including those who study medicine.

(f) Why do you think some respondents feel that ChatGPT should be banned in education? State a reason in 40 words. (2)

(g) Locate a detail from the passage that shows that we still do not know enough about ChatGPT. Answer in one sentence.

(h) State TRUE or FALSE.

More than half of the respondents think it is ok to use ChatGPT in research if one clearly states its contribution.

SECTION B (18 Marks)

3. Twenty-five years ago, a government school was opened in Adampur, your village. As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, the school has decided to honour the meritorious old students who are now holding important positions in life. As Head boy/girl, draft a notice in about 50 words inviting the students of classes IX to XII to attend the function in the school hall. (4)

OR

. You are Mohan/Mohini, secretary, social activities club of ABC school, Gokulpuri. The club has decided to launch a cleanliness drive in a slum colony near your school during the Dussehra holidays. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing class XII students of your school about the drive and urging them to volunteer their names for the programme. Give all the necessary details.

4. You are Abhishek Uppal, the Head Boy of S.D. Public School, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi. Your school is going to hold a summer camp for training students in different sports. The duration of the camp is one month. Write a formal invitation to the Sports Minister to inaugurate the camp on 15th May at

9.00 a.m. (4)

OR

St. Joseph School, Dehradun is celebrating 'World Disability Day' on December 3rd, 2022. The Minister of Social Welfare, Dr. Sudha Menon has consented to be the Chief Guest. Draft an invitation for the event to be sent to parents and other guests in about 50 words.

5. You are Shantanu, reading at Ghar-B-94, Balimela Road, Malkangiri. You come across the following classified advertisement in a local daily. Write a letter in about 120–150 words, applying for the position of a volunteer for Each One Teach One Campaign.

Situation Vacant

Wanted committed volunteers, aged 18 years and above, to teach underprivileged children, for one hour a week in the district of Malkangiri. Ability to speak, read and write Odiya fluently, important. Experience not necessary. All volunteers to receive training. Contact : Nethra N .Coordinator (Each one teach one), Literacy , Ambaguda, Malkangiri, Odisha-764045. (5)

OR

Lack of job opportunities in rural areas is forcing people to migrate to cities. Every big city thus has a number of slums in it. Life in these slums is miserable. Write a letter in 120–150 words to the editor of a national newspaper on how we can improve the living conditions in these slums. You are Karan/Karuna, M-114, Mall Road, Delhi.

6. The invention of mobile phone has brought about a revolution in the lives of the people in the country. If used properly, it can be a blessing but if misused, it can prove to be a curse. Write an article in 120–150 words on “Mobile phone — a boon or bane”. You are Kartik/Krishna Patel. (5)

Clue

Mobile phone—brought major changes-updates with recent happenings-accidents also due to mobile phones-communication with all around the worlds-students spend more time on phones

OR

Teenagers are full of energy as well as ideas. Write an article in 120–150 words on “How to Channelise the Energy of the Teenagers”. You are Tejinder/Simran. You may use the following clues:

Teenagers curious — full of questions — question elders — sometimes even wrongly — generation gap — may go astray — effect on society — how to channelise — productive hobbies — social work — sports — part-time jobs, etc.

SECTION C (40 Marks)

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:- (1*6=6)

. Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

(a) According to the extract, what is the cause of suffering of human beings?

- (i) sickness and old age
- (ii) lack of nobility in human character
- (iii) sadness and hopelessness in life
- (iv) both (ii) and (iii)

(b) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the context.

Any shape of beauty moves the pall from our dark spirits.

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

'From our dark spirits' refers to ____.

(d) The use of the word 'unhealthy' in the extract suggests ____.

(e) Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2–5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 5?

(a) keep

(b) dispirits

(c) sleep

(f) In our darkest hours, our spirits get lifted by

(i) o'er darkened ways

(ii) the beauty of nature

(iii) noble nature of humans

OR

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.
Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the men gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

(a) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

(i) The importance of unity and quietness

(ii) The hour of crisis

(iii) The inevitability of death

(iv) The power of imagination

(b) State whether the following statement is true or false with reference to the context.

By referring to 'without rush, without engines', the poet emphasizes that there will be no noise and bustle.

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The above extract highlights that ____.

(d) The use of the words 'cold sea' in the extract is an example of ____.

(e) 'We would all be together' means ____.

(f) Select the option that is not true about the symbolic expression of, 'man gathering salt, would look at his hurt hands'.

(i) How man is harming himself by his mindless activities.

(ii) The inhuman nature of man

(iii) The humane nature of man

(iv))None of these

8. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:-

(1*4=4)

Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate — not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively 'pristine' in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice.

(a) How does the absence of a human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate change debate?

(b) Why is "climate change" described as a 'hotly contested' issue in the extract provided? This is so, because there

(i) is universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change

(ii) is a planned path ahead about how to address climate change

(iii) are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change

(iv) are minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change

(c) The analogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon records in the study of climate change because ____.

(d) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called factual and informative.

OR

Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. The Maharaja and the dewan held deliberations over this issue. As a result, a telegram was despatched forthwith to a famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta. 'Send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs.' Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer's good lady. The king and the minister expected the duraisani to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all the duraisani sent her reply: 'Thank you very much for your gifts.' In two days a bill for three lakh of rupees came from the British jewellers. The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.

(a) Complete the sentence appropriately.

_____ has been referred to as 'Good Lady'.

(b) The king and the minister expected the duraisani

(i) to choose one or two rings and send the rest to the Maharaja.

(ii) to choose one or two rings and send the rest to the Good Lady.

(iii) to choose one or two rings and send the rest to duraisani.

(iv) to choose three or four rings and send the rest back.

(c) Why did the Maharaja have to pay a bill of three lakh rupees to the British jewellers?

(d) Why was the Maharaja very happy even after losing three lakh rupees?

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (1*6=6)

I hung on to him, yet the waves knocked me down and swept over me. I was buried in water. 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.

(a) Name one sensory detail mentioned in the extract.

(b) What is the reason behind the author saying – 'The Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears'?

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Douglas had been going to Y.M.C.A. and beginning to feel at ease as he _____.

(d) What is Douglas implying while mentioning that the father laughed at the incident but he was frightened?

(e) State True or False.

The waves knocked him over as he did not do enough practice to know the skills.

(f) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

(i) A Scary Encounter!

(ii) Let's Dive In!

(iii) Life is too Short to be Fearful

(iv) Parents: A Supportive Hand!

OR

The old man was just as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco. The guest was informed at once that in his days of prosperity his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo Ironworks and had worked on the land. Now that he was no longer able to do day labour, it was his cow which supported him. Yes, that bossy was extraordinary. She could give milk for the creamery every day, and last month he had received all of thirty kronor as payment.

The stranger must have seemed incredulous, for the old man got up and went to the window, took down a leather pouch which he had hung on a nail in the very window frame and picked out three wrinkled ten kronor bills.

(a) Based on the extract, justify one quality of the old man apart from being generous.

(b) The line, "The stranger must have seemed incredulous" can be best classified as:

(i) A fact

(ii) An opinion

(iii) A theme

(iv) A plot point

(c) Why was the old man generous with his confidences?

(d) Pick one sentence from the extract that shows the old man was hospitable.

(e) As per the extract, which of the following statements is False?

(i) The peddler worked as a crofter at Ramsjo Ironworks in the past.

(ii) The old man was generous in his dealing with the stranger.

(iii) The peddler could not believe the other man being so open about his confidences.

(iv) The old man had received money because of his cow.

(f) Complete the sentence appropriately.

'Days of prosperity' imply ____.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40–50 words. (5*2=

(a) What does the story of Franz not paying attention in the classes reveal about the importance of mother tongue?

(b) What does the tramp mean when he says “the whole world is a rattrap”?

(c) In what sense does imagery prove to be the most effective device in conveying the poet’s plight?

(d) Imagine Pablo Neruda meets someone who is feeling conflicted and chaotic inside. What advice would he give to such a person? State any one reference from the poem ‘Keeping Quiet’.

(e) The author of ‘Lost Spring’ is extremely observant of people. Support this statement with an example from any of the two stories.

(f) What observations are made by the author about Raj kumar Shukla in the Chapter “Indigo “ ?

11. Answer any two from the following questions , in about 40-50 words . (2*2=4)

(a) “ Take care of the small things and the big things will take care of themselves .’ What is the relevance of this statement in the context of Antarctic Environment ?

(b) How was the hundredth tiger made available to the king ?

© The author says ,” It was nothing short of a revelation : everything does connect “ . What does it mean?

12. Attempt ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120–150 words. (5)

A. Do you remember what beauty is the poet talking about in ‘A Thing of Beauty’? People good at heart enjoy every sphere of life.

In The Rattrap, “He walks and walks the whole year long and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here – just one in the whole year.”

The tramp is fraud, but he displays the beauty of his heart. On the other hand, the ironmaster’s daughter is just opposite to her father.

Write a paragraph enumerating how do the tramp and the daughter exchange the beauty of their hearts at the right time taking into account the picture of the poem in your mind also.

Or

Child labour is illegal in our nation. It is a slur on our society. Then why do some parents still send their children to work at their early stage of life? Remember the following line from the lesson 'Lost Spring':

"None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light."

As citizens of India, what do you think is our duty? What steps can the youngsters like you take to mitigate the scourge of poverty?

Discussing this with your friend, write a conversation for the same between the two.

13. Answer any one of the following in 100-120 words :- (5)

Even today so many among us believe in superstitions. An astrologer predicted about 'The Tiger King' that he would be killed by a tiger. He killed one hundred tigers yet was himself 'killed' by a tiger. How did the superstitious belief prevail?

Or

On returning home, Tishani Doshi writes her thoughts reflecting on how her decision to enrol for the Students on Ice programme has been the single most important decision of her life that has completely transformed her.

Imagine yourself to be Tishani and express these thoughts.

You may begin like this:

I can't thank my stars enough for having cashed in on the opportunity of