

## Practice Questions 2021-22

### Class XII

### Term 2

### ENGLISH - CORE

Time: 2 hours

Max. marks: 40

#### 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 (14 marks)

##### 1. Read the passage given below.

5 Gustave Coubert's "L'Homme Blessé" or "The Wounded Man" painting currently under exhibit at the Musee d'Orsay in Paris does not really hold a lot of mysteries the way it looks now. The painting merely depicts a wounded man, as the title suggests, with a sword lying on his side. The man bears a peaceful expression and has his eyes closed; a faded spot of pink is emblazoned on his white shirt at the chest: the site of the wound.

10 It is possible that this guy was attacked using the same sword that is now about a foot away from his shoulder. For many, the painting is merely a depiction of a man; perhaps a dying man waiting for help to come. Would he die? Well, the answer is not really provided in the painting, but current advances in technology have chanced upon something even more fascinating which proves that this painting holds a lot of mystery, after all!

15 The wounded man was not always wounded; and the painting did not always look like it does now. In fact, the original appears to have been a wonderful moment shared by two people. Scholars have long established that the man in the painting was artist Coubert (it was long called a self-portrait) but they did not realize that beneath his seemingly wounded self-portrait was the figure of a person lying contentedly on his shoulders.

20 The x-rays of today have uncovered a secret story hidden beneath layers of paint. The original depicted a familial moment, but at some point, the artist decided to erase the other person from the painting. One cannot make out who the figure in the painting is, but the mind races with questions.

Why did he, for instance, paint over the figure? Perhaps the artist did not want to ruin a

25 good painting yet wanted to remove traces of the person from his memory and his work;  
thus, he painted over its likeness and created the wounded man. Further, the position of the  
wound is interesting. Painted at the area above his heart, could this be Coubert's  
representation of a heartbroken man?

30 Coubert had such great talent that he was able to make changes to a 10-year-old painting  
without creating discrepancies on the final effect. It took scholars decades to discover these  
changes – and only with the use of x-ray technology. The painting was believed to have  
been finished around 1844–1855, but now appears to be 10 years older. It's incredible  
what technology can uncover in centuries-old works of art without taking the piece apart! I  
am amazed!

- Danielle Ramos

Source (edited): 'X-Rays Uncover a Hidden Lady in Coubert's "The Wounded Man" Painting' -  
<http://www.henspark.com/bizarre/x-rays-uncover-hidden-lady-in-couberts-wounded-man-painting-20150916.html>  
word count- 435 words

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **ANY EIGHT** questions from the nine given below.

- i. State the purpose of lines 1–6 in the overall discussion about the painting.

[1 mark]

- ii. Rewrite the following sentence by replacing the underlined word with a phrase from line 10 – line 15 which has a similar meaning.

*They discovered the new planet while observing the satellite's movement.*

[1 mark]

- iii. Analyse the effect that line 19, given below, has on the reader.

*The x-rays of today have uncovered a secret story hidden beneath layers of paint.*

[1 mark]

- iv. Find the phrase that means 'to have known something to be true for a while' from lines 15–20.

[1 mark]

- v. Describe one aspect of the painting that makes it mysterious.

[1 mark]

vi. Justify the author's tone as 'awestruck' with one piece of evidence from the passage.  
[1 mark]

vii. Why does the author consider Coubert a brilliant artist?  
[1 mark]

viii. State a point to challenge the given statement.

*The passage is a factual piece in which the author remains objective throughout.*  
[1 mark]

ix. Support the following statement with any one piece of evidence from the passage.

*The author of the passage has tried to interpret the meaning of the painting.*  
[1 mark]

2. Read the passage given below.

Vending machines offer food in a quick and convenient manner, but do little to improve people's eating habits. You can find a packet of chips but not a fresh bowl of salad. Considering that they are installed in many hospitals and clinics, they offer unhealthy food choices to hospital personnel who work long hours, to patients and to visitors. How bad could these vending machines be for us?

A study published in the Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition sought to answer this question. It closely examined beverages found in vending machines across 188 health care institutions in Slovenia. The institutions included hospitals, health centres and nursing homes. The researchers studied 3,046 beverages which included soft drinks, water, coffee, juices and energy drinks. They noted the nutritional profile of each beverage. A certain amount of each of the different elements is considered healthy, as shown in Table 1.

*Table 1: Criteria for Classification of a Beverage as Healthy or Unhealthy*

Quality Indicator	Normal amount (per 100 ml)	Excessive amount (per 100 ml)
Fat	1.5 gms or less	10 gms or more
Saturated fats	0.75 gms or less	2.5 gms or more
Sugar	2.5 gms or less	6.3 gms or more
Salt	0.3 gms or less	1.5 gms or more

15 The results of the study show that a whopping 60% of the beverages (1,828 beverages)  
 were found to be unhealthy. Further, of the 3,046 beverages, 98% had normal amounts of  
 fat, 96% had normal amounts of saturated fats and 99% of the beverages had normal  
 amounts of salt. Interestingly, the indicator that was found in unhealthy amounts across all  
 the categories of beverages was sugar (water being an exception). The researchers  
 calculated the average amount of sugar and calories found in each category of the  
 beverage. Iced coffee and energy drinks were found to be the most unhealthy having the  
 20 highest sugar content and energy density.

Table 2: Average Calories and Average Sugar Content in Beverages

Category	Count (% of total)	Average calories (per 100 ml)	Average sugar content (per 100 ml)
Soft drinks	2,286 (75%)	30.3 Kcal	7.5
Water	417 (13.7%)	0 Kcal	0
Coffee	119 (3.9%)	66.3 Kcal	8.7
Juices	113 (3.7%)	42.2 Kcal	8.6
Energy drinks	111 (3.6%)	45.7 Kcal	10.8

25 The researchers note that drinking sugar-sweetened beverages increases not only the risk  
 for weight gain and obesity, but also the risk for tooth decay (caries), type 2 diabetes  
 mellitus, heart diseases, liver diseases, poor nutrition and several other adverse health  
 issues. They urge the institutions to check the nutritional profiles of beverages so their  
 vending machines can encourage healthy food and beverage choices.

- Multiple Authors

Source (edited): 'Nutritional quality of beverages available in vending machines in health and social care  
 institutions: do we really want such offers?' - <https://bit.ly/3GfM5hj>

Word count: 321 words

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY SIX out of the seven  
 questions given below.**

- Why do you think the researchers conducted this study in the context of healthcare  
 institutions? Give one reason.

[1 mark]

- ii. Zeenat has to choose between two iced tea drinks. Explain which table from the passage can help her make a healthy choice.  
[1 mark]
- iii. The researchers had to exclude some beverages from their study as an important piece of information was missing. Identify the missing piece of information from these beverages.  
[1 mark]
- iv. Victor buys groceries from his local shop which does not have any vending machines. Describe any one learning from this study that he can apply for healthy grocery shopping.  
[1 mark]
- v. In table 2, why have the authors reported the values of sugar content, but excluded fats, saturated fat and salt content?  
[1 mark]

### FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Based on the passage, frame a definition for an 'unhealthy' drink.

- vi. Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with another phrase from lines 5–9 without changing its meaning.  
*They thoroughly checked both the students' papers for evidence of grammatical errors.*  
[1 mark]
- vii. Do you think the researchers of the study aimed to change people's eating habits directly or indirectly? Justify your stance.  
[1 mark]

### SECTION B - WRITING (8 marks)

3. Mr Saha, a famous writer, has been invited to attend a book fair being organised in a local school in his city. As his secretary, draft a reply to the invitation, expressing Mr Saha's inability to attend the function. You are Manoj/Miriam.  
[3 marks]
4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

A. You are Ruksana Saudagar, residing at A-21, Gurmatkal Road, Yadgir, Karnataka. You saw the given advertisement in 'The Yadgir Times' for a free course in news reporting at the newspaper. In 120–150 words, write a letter applying for the course and mentioning why you want to do it.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING
Applications invited for a free vocational training course in News Reporting at 'The Yadgir Times'. Applicants must be residents of Yadgir district. Ability to speak, read and write Kannada fluently is important. Experience not necessary. All chosen candidates will receive a stipend. Contact Ramnath Hukkeri, Training Coordinator, The Yadgir Times, Yadgir, Karnataka-585202

[5 marks]

**OR**

B. Five journalists from Yadgir, Karnataka, were honored by the Yadgir Deputy Commissioner, Dr Ragapriya R (IAS) for writing about important issues in the remotest areas of the district. All five journalists began their careers through the vocational training course in news reporting offered by 'The Yadgir Times'. As a staff reporter of 'The Yadgir Times', write a report in 120–150 words covering all the details of the event including a montage of the journalists, a cultural programme and the commissioner's speech.

[5 marks]

### **SECTION C - LITERATURE (18 marks)**

**5. Attempt ANY FIVE of the six questions given below, within 40 words each.**

i. Support with a reason how 'The Rattrap' is not just another fairy tale.

[2 marks]

ii. Describe one example from the text 'Indigo' that supports the statement given below with respect to how Gandhi helped the peasants.

*"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." – H.E.*

*Luccock*

[2 marks]

iii. Explain the relationship dynamics that the poet suggests through the phrase 'mastered by' in the following lines from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

*When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie,*

*Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.*

[2 marks]

- iv. The poet employs vivid imagery in 'A Thing of Beauty' by using phrases like 'wreathing a flowery band', 'rich with a sprinkling of fair-bloom musk' and others to showcase the beauty of nature. In a similar fashion, use imagery to describe something that brings joy to you.

[2 marks]

- v. With reference to 'On the Face of It', explain one point of difference between Derry's initial reception of Mr Lamb and Mr Lamb's behaviour towards Derry.

[2 marks]

- vi. Explain any one of Jack's sentiments towards his wife in the line below from 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?'

*...he was telling her [Jo] something true, something she must know — and had no wish to hurry on. But downstairs a chair scraped, and he realised he must get down to help Clare...*

[2 marks]

**6. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 120–150 words each.**

- i. Discuss how the author of 'The Rattrap' uses the setting of the story to reflect the mental state of the characters. Describe any two examples from the text.

[4 marks]

- ii. The story 'Evans Tries an O-Level' has many sentences that have been written in the same way as the lines below. Identify any two features of the author's writing style in the given lines and explain the effect that they have on the reader.

"New" something. "Newgrave"? Never heard of it: There was a "Wargrave", somewhere near Reading, but...No, it was probably a code word, or — And then it hit him. Newbury! God, yes! Newbury was a pretty big sort of place but —  
He rapped out his orders to the driver.

[4 marks]

- iii. Analyse the difference in tone of the first two lines versus the last two lines of the given stanza from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'. State a reason for why the author has structured the lines to describe the aunt's fate first and then the fate of her tigers.

*When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.*

**[4 marks]**

\*\*\*End of Paper\*\*\*