

ENGLISH CORE -Code No. 301
MARKING SCHEME
CLASS-XII-(2026-27)

General Instructions: -

1. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
2. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note 'Extra Question'.
3. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple-choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.

	SECTION A: READING SKILLS	22
Q1. Answer the following questions, based on the given passage. (Factual Passage)		12
I	Observation rates can exceed 100 meteors per hour. [This numerical evidence directly indicates unusually high activity compared to other meteor showers.]	1
II	the Geminids originate from them and not from a comet which is the common source of meteor showers.	1
III	Friction causes the incoming dust and rock fragments to heat up as they pass through Earth's atmosphere, making them glow and produce bright streaks of light that can be seen from the ground.	1
IV	B. It serves as a visual guide for observers to locate the shower. [The passage explains that the radiant helps identify the shower's apparent point of origin.]	1
V	They can be observed with the unaided eye. Additional value points. They produce brighter and longer-lasting streaks of light. They occur during a predictable annual window in mid-December. They have a high meteor count, sometimes exceeding 100 meteors per hour. They are visible across different regions of the sky, not confined to one narrow area. No specialised equipment like telescopes or binoculars is required. [Accept any one reason that shows ease of observation or accessibility, supported by the passage.].	1
VI	A. Their activity has shown a steady increase over time. [Long-term consistency and growth make the Geminids scientifically valuable for study.]	1
VII	Mentioning documentation since the mid-nineteenth century establishes a long observational history. This strengthens the credibility of claims about increasing activity and reliability, as they are supported by sustained scientific observation rather than recent data alone.	2

VIII	B. explanatory and informative, aimed at scientific understanding [The passage presents factual explanations about the Geminids—its origin, causes, observation conditions, and scientific significance—in a neutral and objective manner. It informs and explains rather than persuading, speculating, or expressing emotion.]	1
IX	The moderate speed allows the meteors to burn longer in the atmosphere, producing brighter and more sustained streaks of light. This enhances visibility and gives observers more time to notice and appreciate each meteor.	2
X	D. scientific explanation and practical observation of Geminids [The passage combines a scientific explanation of the origin and nature of the Geminids with practical guidance on when, where, and how to observe the meteor shower, making option D the most comprehensive representation of the main idea.]	1
Q2. Answer the following questions, based on the given passage. (Case-based Passage)		10
I	B. To understand changes in payment behaviour among different user groups [The passage explicitly states that the charts provide an 'insightful glimpse into how everyday financial habits are changing across the country' and tell a 'human story' of a country shifting from cash to digital payments.]	1
II	The percentage growth in the total value of UPI transactions is greater than the percentage growth in the number of transactions. Justification: From October 2021 to October 2024, transaction volume increased from 4.21 billion to 16.58 billion (nearly four times), while transaction value rose from ₹7.71 lakh crore to ₹23.49 lakh crore (more than three times). This indicates faster growth in the value handled, reflecting increased trust and use of UPI for higher-value payments.	Identification – ½ Justification – ½
III	A. Both the number of transactions and the total value of transactions increase steadily over the four years. [a consistent year-on-year rise in both the volume and the value of UPI transactions from 2021 to 2024, indicating sustained growth rather than fluctuation or decline.]	1
IV	B. Widespread adoption across formal and informal settings [The reference to shops, homes, workplaces, and small roadside vendors shows that UPI is used across both organised and unorganised sectors, indicating broad, inclusive adoption rather than limited or restricted usage.]	1
V	The expansion of UPI into formal financial systems significantly improves financial management for small business owners by enabling digital transaction records, easier tracking of income, and reduced reliance on cash. However, the extent of benefit may depend on factors such as digital literacy and access to technology. Judgement on extent of impact (significantly/partially/to a large extent) - 1 Logical justification with reference to benefits or limitations - 1	1+1 (2)

VI	C. The policy framework governing digital payment systems [The passage discusses transaction growth, changing user attitudes, and the impact on small businesses, but it does not mention government policies, regulations, or the policy framework related to digital payments.]	1
VII	inclusive [The passage states that UPI is used not only in shops and workplaces but also by small roadside vendors. This shows that digital payments have reached both formal and informal sectors, indicating that the system includes a wide range of users rather than being limited or marginal.]	1
VIII	- Higher transaction value reflects user confidence - Greater reliability due to massive transaction volumes - Increased volumes indicate system stability and acceptance, making UPI dependable for daily use. - Wider acceptance across everyday settings - Reduced dependence on physical cash [Any two points]	(1+1) 2
SECTION B-CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)		
Q 3.	- Format - 1 [Box, name of issuing authority- organisation/ agency (top centre), NOTICE (centre), date of issue (aligned left) Authorisation name, designation & signature (bottom left)] NOTE-full credit if all aspects included. Partial credit (½ mark) if one-two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing. - Content - 2 - Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar -1	4
Q 4	- Format - 1 - Content - 2 - Accuracy of spelling and grammar - 1 A- (Letter type formal / third person) B- (Letter type formal, first person)	4
Q 5.	A. Letter to the Editor - Format: 1 (Note- Use 'Yours truly' as complimentary closure) - Organisation of Ideas: 1 - Content: 2 (As per cues + ideas) - Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar :1 B. Job Application - Format -1 (Note- Use 'Yours truly' as complimentary closure)	5

	• Organisation of Ideas - 1 • Content - 2 • Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar - 1 ➤ Covering Letter → Reference to the advertisement → Conveying suitability for the position (as advertised) → Submission of application • Bio data as separate enclosure → Personal Details → Educational Qualifications (include advertised requirements) → Work experience (if relevant) → References → Any other relevant information									
Q 6.	• Format – 1 mark • Content -2 marks • Organisation of ideas -1 mark • Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar -1 mark A. Article: Title -By line Paragraph 1 - Introduction • Relevant topic sentence with supporting points Paragraph(s) 2 (& 3) - Body – Content • Various aspects of the topic- pros & cons / cause and effect • Supporting points/strong evidences Paragraph 4 – Conclusion • Writer’s opinion, comments, recommendations/solutions/suggestions • hope/warning/call for action B. Report: <table><tr><td>HEADLINE S</td><td>Short and catchy phrase</td></tr><tr><td>BY-LINE</td><td>Name and designation of the reporter</td></tr><tr><td>PLACE & DATE</td><td>Mention the place of event and the date of issue of the newspaper</td></tr><tr><td>PARA 1</td><td>What – happened; Why – it happened Who – were involved When – day, date and time Where – it happened</td></tr></table>	HEADLINE S	Short and catchy phrase	BY-LINE	Name and designation of the reporter	PLACE & DATE	Mention the place of event and the date of issue of the newspaper	PARA 1	What – happened; Why – it happened Who – were involved When – day, date and time Where – it happened	
HEADLINE S	Short and catchy phrase									
BY-LINE	Name and designation of the reporter									
PLACE & DATE	Mention the place of event and the date of issue of the newspaper									
PARA 1	What – happened; Why – it happened Who – were involved When – day, date and time Where – it happened									

			[convey the essential facts concisely]		
		PARA 2	How – it happened [convey the essential facts concisely] [Can be written in two paragraphs also]		
		PARA 3	steps taken/will be taken		
SECTION C-LITERATURE (40 marks)					
Q 7.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)				6
A.					
I	inner fulfilment				1
II	A thing of beauty remains a lasting source of joy because its loveliness never fades and continues to offer peace, comfort, and emotional nourishment to the human mind over time.				1
III	C. protective inner refuge offering calm [The metaphor suggests a safe, peaceful mental space created by beauty, providing emotional shelter rather than a physical structure.]				1
IV	B. attainment of emotional and mental peace [These expressions evoke calmness, relaxation, and psychological comfort, not material pleasure or physical exertion.]				1
V	The metaphor presents beauty as a comforting inner refuge that offers peace and rest to the human mind. It reinforces the idea that beauty soothes mental distress and provides lasting emotional support.				1
VI	The poet contrasts beauty, which endures and nurtures the human spirit, with nothingness, which suggests emptiness and absence. While beauty offers continuity and comfort, nothingness represents loss and negation.				1
B.					
I	economic fragility [The repetition of 'little' emphasises poverty, marginal existence, and limited resources rather than aesthetic simplicity or independence.]				1
II	The phrase 'traffic sped' highlights the contrast between the fast-moving urban world and <u>the slow, struggling rural life of the roadside sellers.</u>				1
III	The poet clarifies this to show that the villagers are not seeking charity but fair economic participation. They want dignity through earning, not dependence on handouts.				1
IV	D. continuous circulation of wealth				1
V	The phrase creates a tone of quiet desperation and helpless appeal. It evokes sympathy by highlighting the villagers' powerless condition and their ignored plea for economic justice.				1
VI	B. Rural–urban economic imbalance				1

	[The extract exposes the unequal relationship between prosperous cities and impoverished rural communities, where rural labour sustains urban wealth without fair returns.]	
Q 8.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)	4
A.		
I	B. Anyone is free to enter or leave without restriction. [Mr Lamb uses the open gate as a symbol of freedom, choice, and acceptance. He does not impose himself on Derry and allows him complete autonomy.]	1
II	Mr Lamb's calm, reflective, and accepting manner shows warmth and openness rather than oddity. His thoughtful observations and lack of judgement gradually reveal depth and sensitivity, challenging Derry's assumption that peculiarity means strangeness or threat.	1
III	A. perceive ordinary sounds with sensitivity and imagination [By interpreting buzzing as singing, Mr Lamb shows a positive, imaginative outlook that finds beauty and meaning in everyday experiences.]	1
IV	Derry feels a sense of comfort and acceptance in Mr Lamb's presence. For the first time, he experiences emotional ease and belonging, indicating a shift from fear and isolation to tentative trust.	1
B.		
I	D. They are born into a socially marginalised sector. Annan explicitly states that being 'born into this community' leads to the denial of dignity, showing that discrimination is based on birth, not individual merit.	1
II	C. transform social status and restore lost dignity. [Annan views education as a tool to overcome social indignities and gain respect, not merely material success.]	1
III	Intense determination / complete commitment to education / deep resolve to overcome social discrimination.	1
IV	It portrays Annan as a visionary and compassionate guide who believes in education as a means of empowerment and social equality.	1
Q 9.	Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B)	6
A.		
I	C. 4 and 5	1
II	Complete the following. (any one) • practical • indifferent • routine-bound • unceremonious • matter-of-fact	1
III	to suggest that genuine associations with famous people are distant and indirect, contrasting with Sophie's improbable claim.	1

IV	It reveals Sophie's nervousness and discomfort, showing her anxiety about her father's reaction.	1
V	Geoff acts as a mediator by supporting Sophie's claim, attempting to validate her statement in front of their father.	1
VI	A. Tension between imagination and realism [The interaction contrasts Sophie's imaginative claim of meeting Danny Casey with her father's sceptical and dismissive reaction. Geoff's hesitant support further highlights the divide between youthful fantasy and practical realism. The scene foregrounds the conflict between aspiration-driven imagination and grounded, everyday reality.]	1
B.		
I	A. 1, 2 and 4	1
II	The phrase 'fiery misery' suggests that <u>the intense lighting made the experience physically uncomfortable and almost unbearable for actors undergoing make-up.</u>	1
III	The ironic tone suggests that studio life, while glamorous in appearance, involved discomfort and impractical working conditions behind the scenes.	1
IV	C. To emphasise diversity within shared workspace	1
V	To show that genuine national integration was practised informally in the studio much before it was officially promoted by state-run media.	1
VI	The irony lies in the fact that a space meant to enhance appearance and glamour actually caused discomfort and misery due to harsh working conditions.	1
Q 10.	Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each.	5x2=10
I	Umberto Eco made his academic writing accessible by blending scholarly ideas with clarity, humour, and narrative elements. He avoided obscure jargon, used examples familiar to readers, and treated writing as a form of intellectual communication rather than mere technical exposition.	2
II	The bangle makers of Firozabad remain trapped by poverty, caste stigma, and exploitative systems. Social conditioning, lack of education, and fear of breaking inherited occupations prevent them from imagining alternative futures, making suffering seem inevitable rather than changeable.	2
III	William Douglas' experience shows that fear is intensified by anticipation rather than the actual event. His terror arose from imagined consequences, not drowning itself. Systematic training helped him confront this anticipation, proving that fear can be controlled through rational practice.	2
IV	The Christmas episode transforms the peddler's cynical view of relationships as traps. Edla's kindness and trust awaken his conscience, making him realise that compassion can inspire moral responsibility and change, even in someone hardened by suspicion and loneliness.	2

V	Kamala Das' quiet observations of her mother's ageing face, looking out of the window, and the repeated reassurance reflect suppressed fear of loss, showing how unspoken emotions can be more powerful than explicit expressions of grief.	2
VI	Aunt Jennifer's tigers symbolise her suppressed desire for freedom, strength, and fearlessness. Unlike her constrained life, the tigers move confidently and dominantly, reflecting her inner longing to escape patriarchal oppression and assert her identity beyond marital limitations.	2
Q 11.	Answer any two of the following three questions in 40–50 words each.	2x2=4
I	Charley's fascination with the third level reflects his desire to escape modern stress into a simpler, secure past. The third level symbolises psychological refuge, where nostalgia replaces anxiety, showing how individuals often romanticise the past to cope with present uncertainties.	2
II	The Tiger King's actions ironically fulfil the prophecy he tries to defeat. His obsessive attempts to control fate lead to his death, proving that arrogance and blind faith in power cannot alter destiny, and that human control over fate is ultimately illusory.	2
III	Antarctica is portrayed as a warning about environmental destruction rather than a tourist destination. The continent highlights the fragile balance of nature and the consequences of human interference, urging reflection on ecological responsibility before irreversible damage occurs.	2
Q 12.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	1x5 = 5
A.	<i>Keeping Quiet</i> by Pablo Neruda and <i>Going Places</i> by A. R. Barton present two contrasting ways in which individuals respond to inner conflict—through silence and through imagination. In <i>Keeping Quiet</i>, Neruda advocates purposeful silence as a means of self-reflection. By pausing our restless activity and withdrawing from constant action, individuals are encouraged to confront their inner conflicts honestly. This moment of stillness fosters self-awareness, empathy, and emotional healing, suggesting that silence can lead to personal and collective growth. In contrast, <i>Going Places</i> portrays imagination as an escape from reality. Sophie's fantasies reflect her dissatisfaction with her present life, but her imagined future lacks practical grounding. Instead of resolving her inner conflict, imagination deepens her frustration and isolation, preventing meaningful growth. Together, the poems reveal that silence, when used consciously, promotes maturity and understanding, whereas unchecked imagination, divorced from reality, may hinder genuine human growth.	5
B.	Indigo and Poets and Pancakes present authority operating in very different contexts—colonial administration and cultural institutions—showing how power can be questioned through moral action and irony.	5

	In Indigo, authority is exercised by the British planters who compel the Champaran peasants to grow indigo on part of their land and surrender the produce at unfair prices. This exploitation is challenged when Gandhi refuses to obey the official order to leave Champaran, choosing instead to face arrest. His calm defiance, the spontaneous gathering of peasants in support, and the eventual official inquiry expose the injustice of colonial authority and lead to meaningful reform for the peasants. In Poets and Pancakes, authority within Gemini Studios operates through hierarchy, status, and insecurity rather than force. Figures like the Legal Adviser, whose influence far exceeds his actual contribution, reflect hollow authority sustained by fear and pretence. The author's ironic tone exposes these power structures by subtly mocking their self-importance. Together, the texts reveal that authority can be challenged either through ethical resistance or by exposing its emptiness, depending on the context.	
Q 13.	Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	1x5 = 5
A.	The meeting between Derry and Mr Lamb becomes a crucial turning point in Derry's life as it challenges the fear and self-pity that dominate his self-image. Derry views himself as ugly and unwanted because of his burnt face, believing that people see only his physical deformity. This fear has isolated him emotionally and socially. Mr Lamb, however, offers a radically different outlook. Despite having an artificial leg, he refuses to see himself as disabled or incomplete. Through his open gate, beehive, and garden, he symbolises acceptance and freedom. His statement that 'there are plenty of things to stare at' urges Derry to focus on life's possibilities rather than limitations. By treating Derry with respect and warmth, Mr Lamb helps him realise that self-worth comes from attitude, not appearance. This interaction empowers Derry to move beyond fear and begin redefining himself with confidence and hope.	5
B.	Dr Sadao's decision to shelter and treat an enemy soldier places him at the centre of a profound moral dilemma, where professional ethics conflict with national loyalty. As a Japanese citizen during wartime, Sadao is expected to report the American prisoner, fully aware that harbouring him could lead to severe punishment. His fear of social disgrace and the possibility of execution underline the gravity of his choice. However, Sadao's actions reflect moral courage rather than betrayal. Guided by his identity as a doctor, he prioritises the universal value of human life over political allegiance. His statement that a doctor's duty is to save lives regardless of nationality reinforces this ethical stance. Though conflicted, he shelters the soldier, performs surgery, and later helps him escape. Sadao's decision demonstrates that true courage lies in upholding humanitarian principles even when they oppose dominant national expectations.	5