

KOTHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, NOIDA
ANNUAL EXAMINATION, SESSION: 2025-26
GRADE: 11 SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (301)
[SET A]

DAY & DATE: FRIDAY- FEBRUARY 13, 2026

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

NAME: _____

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HOURS

ROLL NO: _____

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

i). The Question Paper contains THREE sections - READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING, and LITERATURE.

ii). Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A - READING SKILLS (26 Marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1 Read the passage given below:

10

- 1 Very often, we do not take the first step towards a good cause because we say to ourselves, "The task is so big. What can I do alone?" So nothing gets done. There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests. Do we really care? If we do, here are a few things we can do to make our surroundings more pleasant.
- 2 It is good to adopt a two - uses - attitude! By putting an article to a second use, we are giving it a longer lease of life and using up less raw material from nature. One of the worst things we do is the abuse of paper. The clean sides of envelopes can be used to write small notes, lists and reminders around the house. The more paper we use, the more trees will have to be cut down. For the same reason, we should avoid the use of paper napkins or paper plates. Cloth napkins are just as good, for they can be washed and used over and over again.
- 3 The one area which needs the most urgent attention is effective garbage disposal. People who are conscious about it follow rules and laws strictly. As a result, their neighbourhoods are clean and beautiful. A lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it. It is important to convince people to care about the environment. The first step would be to convince people to change by providing simple alternative solutions and ways of doing things. The Internet is a powerful tool and a group of like - minded people can be formed on social media. People can share environmental stories and issues as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another. With the current state that our planet is in, it is imperative that people actively care about the environment and most importantly, act now.

4 Similarly, each one of us can contribute to a cleaner environment. All kitchen waste should be collected separately. Those who have green fingers can turn this into valuable manure. Dig a pit and put the kitchen waste into it. When the pit is a little over half full, cover it up with mud. Let nature do the rest. Within three or six months, we will have a good garden manure. It can also be done as a community project by digging a large pit in the colony. Do take help of all the members, for nothing succeeds like co - operation.

(426 words)

Answer ALL the questions, based on the passage above.

- i Why do people often fail to take the first step towards a good cause? 1**
- A. They lack time
B. They feel the task is too big for one person
C. They are unaware of environmental problems
D. They expect others to act
- (Paragraph 1)
- ii What can we do to avoid the abuse of paper? Answer in 40 words. 2**
- (Paragraph 2)
- iii How can the Internet be a powerful tool in spreading environmental awareness? Answer in about 40 words. 2**
- (Paragraph 3)
- iv Fill in the blanks: 1**
- A two-uses- attitude is _____**
- (Paragraph 2)
- v Which area is described as needing the most urgent attention? 1**
- A. Air pollution
B. Saving forests
C. Effective garbage disposal
D. Water conservation
- (Paragraph 3)
- vi What should be done with kitchen waste according to the passage? 1**
- A. Burn it
B. Throw it in landfills
C. Collect it separately
D. Mix it with plastic waste
- (Paragraph 4)
- vii How can the making of garden manure be done as a community project? 2**
- (Paragraph 5)

2 Read the passage given below:

- 1 ChatGPT has been gaining attention for how closely it mimics human-like responses. Created by Open AI in 2022, it is a chatbot that has been trained to have knowledge of worldly events and phenomena up till 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.
- 2 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 administrative staff, 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.
- 3 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.

Question	Statement	Number of respondents
Should ChatGPT be used in Education?	No, it should be banned.	11
	I don't know; it is too early to make a statement.	226
	Yes, it should be actively incorporated.	183
Should ChatGPT be used in Research?	No, it should not be used at all.	6
	I don't know; it is too early to make a statement.	75
	Yes, but it should only be used to brainstorm.	68
	Yes, as long as its use is transparently disclosed.	259
	Yes, disclosure is NOT needed.	10
Should ChatGPT be used in Healthcare?	No, it should not be used at all.	15
	I don't know; it is too early to make a statement.	177
	Yes, it can be used for administrative.	176
	Yes, it can be used for any purpose.	51

- 4 Based on the responses, there was a greater uncertainty around its uses 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.

(266 words)

Answer ALL of the following questions, based on the passage above:

- i Why do you think some respondents feel that ChatGPT should be banned in education? State **one reason**. (Paragraph 2) **1**
- ii 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**
- iii **State TRUE or FALSE.** **1**
More than half of the respondents think it is ok to use ChatGPT in research if one clearly states its contribution. (figure)
- iv The following was a prompt posted by a user in ChatGPT as their first question: **1**
“What's my name?”
Based on the information from the passage, which of these is most likely to be ChatGPT's response?
A. "Sorry, can you repeat the question?" C. "Your name is user 1000004."
B. 'Error 404: page not found.' D. "Sorry, I don't have access to your data?"
- v **Complete the given sentence in ONE word.** **1**
Based on the summary table, the _____ number of respondents think that ChatGPT should not be used. (figure)
- vi **Which of these is true about the respondents of the survey?** **1**
A. It had 118 respondents who were employed in the field of education.
B. It had 70 respondents who had administrative roles in educational institutions.
C. It had 173 respondents who were working in the field of research including students. D. It had 59 respondents who were from the medical field including those who study medicine. (figure)
- vii **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word- 'accurately' as used in Para-1:** **1**
A. precisely
B. wisely
C. nicely
D. truthfully

3 NOTE MAKING & SUMMARIZING 08
Read the passage below:

Following the onset of industrialization and the sustained urban growth of large population centers, the buildup of waste in the cities has caused a rapid deterioration in levels of sanitation and the general quality of urban life. The streets are gradually becoming choked

with filth due to the lack of waste clearance regulations. So keeping cities clean is essential for keeping the residents healthy. Our health depends not just on personal hygiene and nutrition, but critically also on how clean we keep our cities and our surroundings. The spread of dengue and chikungunya is intimately linked to the deteriorating state of public health conditions in our cities. Waste management is the complete process of handling, processing, transporting, storage, recycling and disposal of human, industrial and environmental waste. Waste management is a global phenomenon, but its ramifications are more prominent in developing countries.

The good news is that waste management to keep cities clean is now getting attention through the "Swachh Bharat Mission "in our country. However, much of the attention begins and stops with the brooms and the dustbins, extending at most to the collection and transportation of the mixed waste to some distant or not so distant place, preferably out of sight. The challenge of processing and treating the different streams of solid waste and safe disposal of the residuals in scientific landfills have received much less attention in municipal solid waste management than is expected from a health point of view. Weak institutions, chronic under-resourcing and rapid urbanization are major challenges to the waste management in a developing country like India.

One of the problems is that instead of focusing on waste management for health, we have got sidetracked into "waste for energy". If only we were to begin by not mixing the biodegradable component of solid waste (close to 60 percent of the total) in our cities with the dry waste, and instead using this stream of waste for composting and producing a gas called methane. Waste collection and disposal methods vary widely among different countries and regions. For example, curbside collection is the most common method of disposal in most European countries, Canada, New Zealand and many other parts of the developed world in which waste is collected at regular intervals by specialized trucks. Domestic waste collection services are often provided by the local government authorities, or by private companies for industrial and commercial waste. Some areas, especially those in less developed countries, do not have formal waste - collection systems.

In major areas of our country, city compost from biodegradable waste provides an alternative to farmyard manure (like cow - dung). It provides an opportunity to simultaneously clean up our cities and help improve agricultural productivity and quality of the soil. Organic manure or compost plays a very important role as a supplement to chemical fertilizers in enriching the nutrient - deficient soils. City compost can be the new player in the field.

Benefits of compost to the farm are well - known. The water holding capacity of the soil which uses compost helps in drought - proofing, and the requirement of less water per crop is a welcomed feature for a water - stressed future. By making the soil porous, use of compost also makes roots stronger and resistant to pests and decay. Farmers using compost, therefore, need less quantity of pesticides. There is also evidence to show, that horticulture crops grown with compost have better flavour, size, colour and shelf - life.

City compost has the additional advantage of being weed - free, unlike farmyard manure which brings with it the seeds of undigested grasses and requires a substantial additional labour cost for weeding as the crops grow. City compost is also rich in organic carbon, and our soils are short in this. Farmers clearly recognize the value of city compost. If city waste was composted before making it available to the farmers for applying to the soil, cities would be cleaned up and the fields around them would be much more productive. Quite apart from cleaning up the cities of biodegradable waste, this would be a major and sustainable contribution to improving the health of our soil without further damage by excessive chemical inputs. What a marvellous change from waste to health!

The good news is that some states are regularly laying plastic roads. Plastic roads will not only withstand future monsoon damage but will also solve a city's problem of disposal of non - recyclable plastic. It is clear that if the mountains of waste from our cities were to be recycled into road construction material, it would tackle the problem of managing waste while freeing up scarce land. The government should initiate awareness campaigns and advertisements informing people about the adverse effects of excess waste. New and advanced technology should be used for the disposal of waste. Maximum recycling and reuse of the waste should be encouraged. Waste management is the call of the hour.

- 3.1 Based on your reading of the above passage, **suggest a suitable title and make notes** on it using **headings** and **subheadings** with **recognizable abbreviations** (wherever necessary - minimum 4) and a format providing a **key**. **05**
- 3.2 Write a **summary** of the above passage in about 50 words. **03**

SECTION B – ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (23 Marks)

All names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental

ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (16 MARKS)

Attempt the following in about 50 words:

- 4 Principal, Sunrise Global School, Agra requires a receptionist for their school. Draft a suitable **Advertisement** to be published in the classified columns of a national newspaper giving all the necessary details of qualifications and experience required in the receptionist. **03**
- 5 Physical fitness is essential for a healthy life. **Create a Poster** emphasizing the need for regular exercise. Sign the poster as Vinay Sinha. **03**

Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120-130 words:

- 6A** *Power shortage has become a norm even in the metropolitan cities. One way to face this situation is by preventing the wastage of power.* Write a **Speech** on **The Importance of Power in Our Daily Life** and how to save power at school and at home. Imagine that you are the Principal of your school. **05**

OR

- 6B** It is true that water will become a scarce commodity in the near future. We are notorious for wasting water. We waste water during weddings. We waste water at our homes and also at our schools. Write a **Speech** on the topic, **Water Is Precious; Use It Wisely** to be delivered in the school morning assembly. You are Govind/ Geeta.

Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120-130 words:

- 7A** Studies have shown that employees working from home are often more focused and less stressed. With reference to this statement, speak in **Favour of or Against** the topic, '**Offices Are No Longer Required as Employees Can Work from Their Homes.**' **05**

OR

- 7B** Some people feel that electronic media (TV news) will bring about the end of print media (newspapers). Write a **Debate** either **For or Against** this view.

INTEGRATED GRAMMAR (7 MARKS)

- 8.1 Fill in the blanks with the suitable form of the verb in the brackets:** **02**

A. She _____ (lose) her keys in the morning, but she found them in the evening.

By the time he finishes his project, he _____ (work) here for a year.

- 8.2 Rearrange the following into a meaningful sentence:** **01**

overfishing/ a/ significant/ in/ fish/ populations/ in/ caused/decline/ various regions /has

- 8.3 Do as directed:** **04**

A. He ate an apple and drank a glass of milk. (**Change the voice**)

B. Shyam is too clever to be cheated. (**Remove 'too;'**)

C. Tariq asked Avni, "Did you complete your project work that was given by our Science teacher?" (**Change the narration**)

Deepawali is the most loved festival of India. (**Change into Comparative Degree**)

**SECTION C – LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING
TEXT (31 Marks)**

*Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.
Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up*

(The Laburnum Top)

- i Identify the **poetic device** used in the second line of the stanza.
- ii Why has the bird been compared to a lizard? Answer in about **20-30 words**.
- iii **What happens when the goldfinch comes to the branch of the tree?**
- (i) The tree becomes very happy and noisy.
(ii) The tree becomes still and angry.
(iii) The tree becomes silent and still.
(iv) The tree becomes silent, still and angry.

OR

9B

*Some twenty-thirty – years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty
And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they
Dressed us for the beach." The sea holiday
Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss.*

(A Photograph)

- i What is the primary **theme** of the extract?
- ii Complete the following suitably. The phrase '**laboured ease of loss**' generates a feeling of _____
- iii **Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract:**

Assertion: The poet captures the complexity of reminiscing about the past.

Reason: The poet uses imagery of sorrow and fading memories to illustrate the sameness between past joys and present realities.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

- (a) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(b) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

But that was not so. After five years I come back home and was met by her at the station. She did not look a day older. She still had no time for words, and while she clasped me in her arms I could hear her reciting her prayers. Even on the first day of my arrival, her happiest moments were with her sparrows whom she fed longer and with frivolous rebukes.

(The Portrait of a Lady)

I Where was the author for five years?

ii How did the grandmother react when the author came back after five years?

- (i) She was overwhelmed.
- (ii) She clasped the author in her arms and said prayers.
- (iii) She was least concerned.
- (iv) She got sentimental.

iii How did the grandmother spend her happiest moments? Answer in about 20-30 words.

OR

10B “You have heard a lot about the catastrophe theory at that seminar. Let us apply it to the Battle of Panipat. Wars fought face to face on open grounds offer excellent examples of this theory. The Maratha army was facing Abdali’s troops on the field of Panipat. There was no great disparity between the latter’s troops and the opposing forces. Their armour was comparable. So, a lot depended on the leadership and the morale of the troops. The juncture at which Vishwasrao, the son of and heir to the Peshwa, was killed proved to be the turning point.

(The Adventure)

I Who is speaking to whom in the given extract? What are they discussing about?

ii What happened to the Maratha army in reality?

- (i) They lost the battle.
- (ii) They won the battle.
- (iii) They signed a treaty after the battle.
- (iv) Nothing happened.

iii What do you understand by the term ‘catastrophe theory’? Answer in 20-30 words.

11A Read the given extracts and answer the questions of ANY ONE extract only:

04

‘Every time she leaves here she takes something home with her,’ said my mother. ‘She took all the table silver in one go. And then the antique plates that hung there. She had trouble lugging those large vases, and I’m worried she got a crick in her back from the crockery.’ My mother shook her head pityingly. ‘I would never have dared ask her. She suggested it to me

herself. She even insisted. She wanted to save all my nice things. If we have to leave here we shall lose everything, she says.’ Have you agreed with her that she should keep everything??

I asked. ‘As if that’s necessary,’ my mother cried. ‘It would simply be an insult to talk like that. And think about the risk she’s running, each time she goes out of our door with a full suitcase or bag.’

- I** Read the extract and discuss the character of Mrs S, the mother of the author. Answer in about **20-30 words**. Take your answer from the extract only.
- ii** Why does Mrs S say that Mrs Dorling would be running a risk each time she took things out of the house? Answer in about **20-30 words**.
- iii** Make a sentence with the word ‘**antique**.’
- iv** Choose the word that stands as a synonym for the word ‘**lugging**.’
- A. Preserving
 - B. Packing
 - C. Luggage
 - D. Carrying

OR

11B And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address. I wanted to see them, touch, remember. After my first visit in vain to Mrs Dorling’s house I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her if her mother was at home. ‘No’ she said, ‘my mother’s doing an errand.’ ‘No matter,’ I said, ‘I’ll wait for her.’

(The Address)

- i** What does the phrase “curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address” reveal about the narrator's feelings?
- ii** **Complete the following suitably.**
The narrator decides to wait for Mrs. Dorling because _____
- iii** In what ways does the speaker's determination to wait for Mrs. Dorling reflect her longing for connection and familiarity?
- iv** **Select the suitable option to complete the following.**
The line “*I wanted to see them, touch, remember*” contributes to the reader's understanding of the speaker's feelings of _____
- (a) nostalgia (b) anger (c) indifference (d) excitement

12 Answer **ANY TWO** of the following questions, **in about 40-50 words**:

06

- i** ‘*That is, assuming that in this world, there existed someone called Rajendra Deshpande!*’ Why does **Professor Gaitonde** feel so in the narrative ‘**The Adventure**’?
- ii** How does the rain describe itself in the poem ‘**The Voice of the Rain**’?

- iii Why did the narrator in "**We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together**" find Sue's card so significant during their ordeal?
- iv **Interpret the meaning behind the speaker's realisation that "*Hell and Heaven/ Could not be found in Geography*" in the poem "Childhood."**
- 13 Answer ANY ONE of the following questions, **in about 40-50 words:** **03**
- i Write a **character description** of **Aram** from the chapter '**The Summer of a Beautiful White Horse.**'
- ii What impression do you form of Andrew Manson on the basis of the story '**Birth**'?
- 14 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, **in about 120-150 words.** **06**
- i Both the narrator in '**Silk Road**' and the team of archaeologists in '**Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues**' had to face many difficulties to achieve success in their mission. What were the difficulties faced by each? Write briefly.

OR

- ii What do you think of the two portraits of fathers as seen in the poem '**Father to Son**' and the essay '**We're Not Afraid to Die...**'? **06**
- 15 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, **in about 120-150 words.**
- i The concept of justice and its interpretation can significantly shape narrative techniques such as character development, dialogue, and irony. Analyse how Vikram Seth incorporates these elements to explore the theme of justice in "**The Tale of Melon City.**" Support your answer with specific examples from the text.

OR

- ii In '**Mother's Day,**' after the truth about the body-switch is revealed, Cyril feels ashamed of his conduct. He writes a diary entry describing his guilt and his resolution to change. Write that **Diary Entry.**