



## UNIT TEST (2026-2027)

## ENGLISH CORE

Class: XII

Time: 1 hour

Date: 14 / 05 /2026

M.M: 30

**General Instructions:**

- ✓ All questions are compulsory.
- ✓ The question paper consists of three sections:  
Section A - Reading - 10 Marks  
Section B - Writing - 4 Marks  
Section C - Literature – 16 Marks
- ✓ Attempt one section at a stretch and then move to the next section and number your questions correctly.
- ✓ While attempting MCQs, write the correct option number along with the answer.
- ✓ Use of correcting fluid (whitener) is prohibited.
- ✓ This paper consists of 4 printed pages.

|             | SECTION A-READING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 10 Marks |
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| <b>Q. I</b> | <b>Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |          |
| <b>1</b>    | The Centre is methodical. The recently tabled press and registration of periodicals bill, 2023 appeared to many to be a methodical step in destroying freedoms. The government, however, declared that the bill would simplify the process of registration presented in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, which the new law will replace. It will aid transparency and ease of business and help small and medium publishers. But these uplifting goals have not prevented the government from opening up multiple centres of power that can decide the fate of journals.                                                                             |          |
| <b>2</b>    | The alarm expressed by the Editors Guild of India over the bill's 'draconian provisions' indicates how the bill threatens press freedom. The EGI has written about its areas of worry to the prime minister and highly-placed leaders and suggested that the bill be sent to a parliamentary select committee for discussion. 'Registration', not 'regulation', is what a free press requires.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |          |
| <b>3</b>    | The 1867 law empowered only the district magistrate to suspend or cancel the certificate of registration for a publication. The new law gives this power not only to the press registrar but also to other 'specific authorities', suggesting that law enforcement agencies, too, could butt in. The EGI fears the possibilities of arbitrariness and intrusiveness because any of these authorities can enter publishing premises to question people and seize documents. The bill seems to have built-in guarantees of compliance. Anyone accused of terrorist activity and of actions detrimental to the security of the State would be barred from publishing. |          |
| <b>4</b>    | The ceaseless use of laws against terror and sedition is a constant threat to journalists, who are occasionally jailed. But criticism of the government was so far being suppressed by arresting individuals; the new law would ensure silence even before a line is published. Since the Centre will evolve guidelines for news publication, it could mean a full-blown shift from news to fairy-tale. Lightning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |

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|     | the penal provisions of the 1867 Act is intriguing too.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |
| 5   | An improper declaration of publishers and printers before the district magistrate will not matter. And the law will tread lightly when there is publication without registration, making it punishable if publishing continues for six months after warning. Who are the intended beneficiaries? A free press is one of the most precious freedoms the country enjoys. This is now at grave risk. |          |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
|     | <b>Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 10 Marks |
| i   | Select the option that best captures the central theme of the passage.<br><br>a. The evolution of press and registration laws in India<br><br>b. The challenges to press freedom posed by new legislation<br><br>c. The benefits of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023<br><br>d. The role of the Editors Guild of India in shaping press regulations                            | 1 Mark   |
| ii  | What is the primary goal of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023, according to the government?<br><br>a. To enhance transparency in press operations<br><br>b. To simplify the process of press registration<br><br>c. To promote ease of business for publishers<br><br>d. To aid small and medium publishers financially                                                        | 1 Mark   |
| iii | Share evidence from the passage that supports the concern expressed by the Editors Guild of India (EGI) about the new bill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2 Marks  |
| iv  | Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description.<br><br>Based on the information in the passage, the Editors Guild of India is portrayed as ____                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1 Mark   |
| v   | What aspect of the new law raises concerns about potential abuse of power?<br><br>a. The empowerment of district magistrates<br><br>b. The inclusion of 'specific authorities'<br><br>c. The provision for simplifying registration<br><br>d. The focus on ease of business for publishers                                                                                                        | 1 Mark   |
| vi  | Explain, in about 40 words, the potential implications of the new law on press                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2 Marks  |

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |
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|                | freedom, as highlighted in the passage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                 |
| <b>vii</b>     | <p>The word “<i>intriguing</i>” in paragraph 4 of the passage most nearly suggests:</p> <p>a. Boring<br/>b. Unimportant<br/>c. Confusingly interesting<br/>d. Predictable</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1 Mark          |
| <b>viii</b>    | <p>State TRUE or FALSE.</p> <p>The new law is designed to lighten the penal provisions of the 1867 Act, making it easier for publishers to operate without strict oversight.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1 Mark          |
|                | <b>SECTION B - WRITING</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>4 Marks</b>  |
| <b>Q. II.</b>  | Attempt any ONE from (a) and (b) given below:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                 |
| a              | Bali High Public School has recently created Cure Green, a dedicated area for local medicinal herbs and shrubs, adjacent to the flower garden, on campus. As Rachel Tiwari, Captain of the Eco-Club, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing students of classes XI-XII, about a guided walk-through Cure Green, post assembly, on Friday, 10 July, 20xx. Invite care-giver applications, for Cure Green. | <b>4 Marks</b>  |
|                | <b>OR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                 |
| b              | You are the Secretary of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Sector D-3 Society, Lucknow. Draft a notice for the Society notice board, informing residents about the change of personnel, Head Security, Gate 2 and share necessary details. Also, include the news of installation of the much awaited security camera, on the Eastern periphery of the Society.                                                           |                 |
|                | <b>SECTION C- LITERATURE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>16 Marks</b> |
| <b>Q. III.</b> | <b>Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |
|                | <p><i>“.. but after the airport’s security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter’s moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood’s fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile.....”</i></p>                                                                                                                               |                 |
| i.             | <p>What is the speaker’s emotional state when looking at her mother?</p> <p>a. Confused and disoriented<br/>b. Nostalgic and longing<br/>c. Empathetic and understanding<br/>d. Fearful and apprehensive</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1 Mark          |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| ii     | What does the use of the word "but" at the beginning of the line, 'but all I said...', suggest?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1 Mark      |
| iii.   | State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.<br><br>The poetic device used in the line, 'pale as a winter's moon' is the same as the one used in the line, 'the winter wind wistfully wailed at night'.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1 Mark      |
| iv     | Complete the sentence appropriately. The repetition of the word, 'smile' suggests that _____.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1 Mark      |
| Q. IV. | <b>Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |
|        | <i>He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it. they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality; things were pretty nice and peaceful in his days, from all I hear, and he started my collection. (The Third Level)</i> |             |
| i      | Select the option that signifies the condition of people of the 'modern world' mentioned in the extract.<br>(1) unsure<br>(2) lazy<br>(3) offensive<br>(4) anxious<br>(5) afraid<br><br>a. (1) and (3)<br>b. (2) and (5)<br>c. (2), (3) and (4)<br>d. (1), (4) and (5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1 Mark      |
| ii     | Why didn't Charley's grandfather need refuge from reality?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1 Mark      |
| iii    | Sam's explanation to the reaction of Charley's wife was _____ in nature<br>a. critical<br>b. aggressive<br>c. clarifying<br>d. accusatory                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1 Mark      |
| Q. V.  | <b>Answer any TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2x2=4 Marks |
| i.     | Identify an instance of hope or resilience in 'Lost Spring' and analyse how it reflects one of the story's themes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |             |
| ii.    | How does the story use the third level as a metaphor?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |
| iii.   | What does the contrasting imagery of the church clock and the Prussian trumpets represent, in 'The Last Lesson'?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |             |
| Q. VI. | <b>Answer any ONE of the following in bout 120-150 words.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 5 Marks     |
| i      | Discuss how the poet blends personal experience with universal themes in "My Mother at Sixty-Six".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |             |
| ii     | Everybody during the 'last lesson' is filled with regret. Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |             |