



ASSESSMENT 1 (2026-2027)

ENGLISH CORE - MS

Class: XII

Time: 3 hours

Date:13/09/2026

M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- ✓ *All questions are compulsory.*
- ✓ *The question paper consists of three sections:*
 - Section A - Reading - 22 Marks*
 - Section B - Writing - 18 Marks*
 - Section C - Literature –40 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 10 printed pages.*

	SECTION A-READING	12 Marks
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	
	1. Many of us believe that ‘small’ means ‘insignificant’. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make a tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success. 2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat. 3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the ‘Mahatma’. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day.	

	Day-by-day, hour-by-hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoiding responsibility. 4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle. 5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward with confidence in the direction of our dreams. Often when our 'ideal goal' looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.	
i	Gandhiji followed a process of growth. Which of the following is the third step in this process? (a) Experimentation (b) Learning from mistakes (c) Risking failure (d) Attempt to change	1 Mark
ii	The main idea in the first paragraph is that a. overnight success is possible for all of us b. small actions and decisions are important in one's life c. big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great d. personal changes are not important	1 Mark
iii	What is the one common thing that Gandhiji did in small and large situations? Answer in about 40 words. The one common thing that Gandhiji did in small and large things is that he took up responsibility rather than avoiding it.	2 Marks
iv	Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract. The phrase _____ in the first paragraph means 'to steadily give up bad habits'. 'chipped away at their bad habits'	1 Mark
v	Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'unintentionally' from words used in paragraph 3. (a) Organic (b) Consistently (c) Risked (d) Deliberately	1 Mark
vi	Comment on the writer's reference to the way in which great people	2 Marks

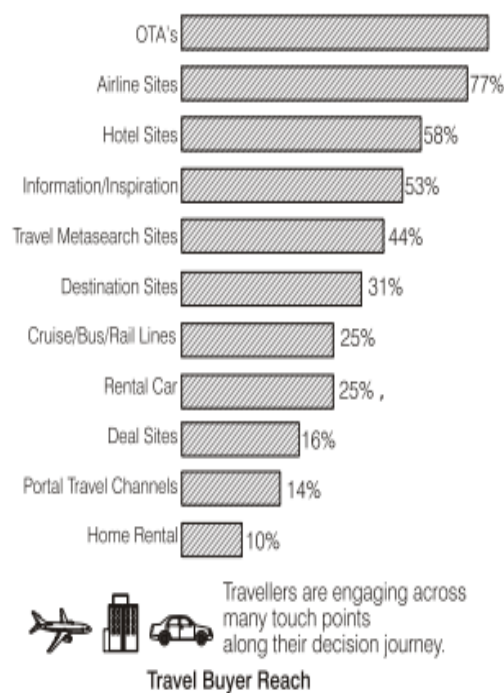
	transform their lives. Answer in about 40 words. Great people do the following things in order to transform their lives (a) They believe in performing every day. (b) They build their character in small ways. (c) They approach life on a day-to-day basis.	
vii	Describe the ‘universal law of nature’ mentioned in the passage. Answer in about 40 words. The universal law of nature mentioned in the passage refers to the organic process of growth. The soil must first be tilled and then the seeds must be sown. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sun light and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.	
viii	What did Gandhiji try to do after he was 25 years old? Gandhiji tried to change and reform himself, after he was twenty five years-old.	1 Mark
ix	Pick the option that correctly lists the tone of the writer with reference to the passage. 1. Sympathetic 2. Encouraging 3. Wonder 4. Regret 5. Matter of fact Codes: (a) Only 3 (b) Only 4 (c) Only 2 (d) 1 and 5	1 Mark
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	10 marks
	1. With the enormous amount of information potentially available to travelers, the internet constitutes an important platform for information exchange between the consumer and industry suppliers (e.g., hotels, transportation sectors, attractions), intermediaries (e.g., travel agents), controllers (e.g., governments and administrative bodies), as well as many non-profit organizations such as destination marketing organizations. 2. Different technological interfaces, such as search engines, online travel booking sites and websites of destination marketing organizations facilitate the information exchange between online travelers and the so-called “online tourism domain”. 3. Particularly, it has been argued that understanding the nature of the online tourism domain, i.e. the composition of online tourism related information potentially available to travelers, provides an important	

stepping-stone for the development of successful marketing programs and better information systems in tourism.

4. The importance of social media is identified by Xiang & Gretzel (2010). Their analysis showed that social media constitute a substantial part of the search results, indicating that search engines linked the travelers directly to social media sites. Since more and more travelers seem to tap into this “collective intelligence” available on the web, this will challenge the established marketing practices of many tourism businesses and destinations.

5. The relation between social interaction, communication media and content can provide various supplementary advantages. It is more convenient and efficient way of spreading information compared to traditional media and thus, more and more companies are utilizing it as a marketing channel. Furthermore, through media visibility companies are able to create more approachable image and possibly bring awareness among new customers as well as retain existing consumer relationships.

6. One of the popular travel social media site Expedia Media Solutions partnered with ComScore, shed some insightful details of how travelers consume and share content prior to, during and after a trip.



7. It shows that the field of online content consumption is growing at a rapid pace. Another interesting point was that content is available and being assessed by consumers across more platforms and channels than ever before. Not surprisingly coming from an Expedia Solutions study, online travel agencies were found to be an important source across all platforms and throughout all stages of the booking process.

8. It is no wonder that destinations, airlines, hotels and most travel marketers are embracing social networks such as pinterest, photo/video applications such as Instagram and Vine, as part of their storytelling toolkit,

	reaching out to growing crowds of travelers.	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.	
i.	Who as per the information given in the passage, are the controllers in the field of Tourism? controllers in the field of tourism are the online travel agencies (OTAs).	1 Mark
ii.	Which of the following statements is NOT substantiated by information in paragraph 4? (a) The established marketing practices of many tourism businesses and destinations are challenged by the online media. (b) Social media constitute a substantial part of the travel search results. (c) Search engines link the travellers directly to social media sites. (d) None of the above.	1 Mark
iii.	In what way do the social media sites give supplementary advantage? Social media sites provide a supplementary advantage by offering additional travel information, reviews, recommendations, and experiences shared by other travellers, helping tourists make better-informed travel decisions.	2 Marks
iv.	Based on the given graphical representation of data in the passage, choose the option that is TRUE with respect to the usage of social media networks. (a) Online travel agencies are an important source across all platforms and throughout all stages of the booking process. (b) Through media visibility companies are able to complicate their market standing. (c) Different political and technological interfaces facilitate the information exchange between online travellers. (d) Traditional communication channels restrict information exchange between online travellers.	1 Mark
v.	How have online media and social media changed the tourism industry according to the passage? Answer: Online and social media have challenged traditional marketing practices in tourism and have become important sources of travel information. They also facilitate information exchange between travellers and tourism businesses.	2 Marks
vi.	What does the given passage focus on? The role and impact of online media and social media in the tourism industry , particularly how they influence travel information, booking decisions, marketing, and communication between travellers and tourism businesses.	1 Mark
vii.	Complete the sentence appropriately with one word only. ' _____ ' in para 1 means the same as 'huge'.	1 Mark

	enormous	
viii.	State True or False. The field of online content consumption is growing at a slow but steady pace. FALSE	1 Mark
	SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS	18 Marks
Q. III.	Attempt any ONE from (a) and (b) given below:	
	(A) Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX – XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish of Rosedale Public School, New Delhi. Format- 1, content -2, accuracy and expression- 1 mark Suggested value points: • name of event • date/duration, venue • target classes, any other details • contact information (inputs given in the question to be included) (any other relevant point)	4 Marks
	OR	
	(B) Your school St. Joseph's Convent, Bangalore is organizing an Inter-House Science Model-Making Competition. As President of the Science Club, draft a notice to inform all House members from classes IX – XII about the competition and specify the number of registrations invited per house. Include other necessary details.	
Q. IV.	(A) You are the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School. The school is launching a 'Yoga for Life' programme aimed at promoting physical fitness, mental well-being and mindful living among students. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words inviting parents and other members of the school community to the launch ceremony. Include date, time and other relevant details. Format- 1, content -2, accuracy and expression- 1 mark Formal invitation (Invitation card) Format - card, third person, in a box Suggested value points: • host, line of invitation, occasion/ event, day, date, time, venue • name and designation of the chief guest • R.S.V.P • formal and cordial expression	4 Marks
	OR	

	(B) You are the Secretary of the Literary Club of Delhi Public School, Noida. Your school is hosting an Inter-School Literary Fest to provide young learners an opportunity to showcase their communication, creativity and critical-thinking skills. The fest will be held on 20 th September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the school auditorium and will feature debates, poetry recitation and creative writing competitions. Draft a formal invitation letter to Mr. Mohan Rakesh, noted theatre and cinema artist and chairperson of The Drama School, Chennai requesting him to be the guest of honour for the event.	
Q. V.	(A) You are Nitin/Natasha a student of Class XII at K.P.N. Public School Faridabad. Students with a lot of pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the increasing stress faced by students and suggest ways to combat the same. Distribution of marks: Formal Letter Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1, Accuracy- 1 FORMAT –Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Sign/Name Salutation and Subject, Complimentary Close, Name • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing. • Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are mentioned. • Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	5 Marks
	OR	
	(B) You are Swati/Sameer, resident of C-21, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. You find, participation of children in various reality shows in T.V. is a form of child exploitation. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily showing your concern about various forms of child exploitation prevalent in educated, urban society giving some suggestions to curtail it.	
Q. VI.	(A) They may have stood the test of time but there is a growing demand for the need to protect the country's monuments. Write an article in about 150-200 words for your school magazine on how we can conserve our built heritage. You are Akshay/ Akshita. of Graham Public School, Indore. Distribution of marks: Format -1 Content – 2 Expression – 1, Accuracy- 1 FORMAT -1 - Title and by-line • No mark for format if content is irrelevant or missing.	5 Marks

	Partial credit of ½ mark if any of the aspects is missing. EXPRESSION- grammar, spelling, punctuation, organisation and coherence of ideas	
	OR	
	(B) Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Satish/Sakshi. You had the opportunity of playing Hide-n-Seek when you visited your cousins in a small town. You decide to write an article on your experiences about the joys of playing outdoor games for the school magazine. Write the article in 150-200 words.	
	SECTION C - LITERATURE	40 Marks
Q. VII.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	6 Marks
A.	<i>Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire, victory with no survivors, would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.</i> (Keeping Quiet)	
i.	What does the phrase “victory with no survivors” mean? (a) The bloodshed caused as a result of wars. (b) Degradation of human life. (c) The winners of a war enjoy greater happiness and success. (d) Wars always lead to peace and prosperity.	1 Mark
ii.	State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. Pablo Neruda suggests that fishermen should stop harming whales and refrain from activities that cause violence to marine life. TRUE	1 Mark
iii.	Which of the following, poetic devices has been used in ‘clean clothes’? (a) Metaphor (b) Alliteration (c) Oxymoron (d) Assonance Alliteration	1 Mark
iv.	What do the last two lines of the extract imply? Promote peace, brotherhood (any other similar or relevant answer)	1 Mark
v.	What do “green wars” refer to? Green wars refer to the war against nature	1 Mark
vi.	Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following statement. The poet does not promote inactivity or death but wants fraternity. The phrase – “walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.”	1 Mark

	suggest the given statement.	
	OR	
	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	
B.	<i>"A thing of beauty is a joy forever: Its loveliness increases; it will never Pass into nothingness..."</i>	
i	Why is a thing of beauty a joy forever? its beauty continues to delight us and remains in our memory permanently.	1 Mark
ii	Which poetic device is used in "A thing of beauty is a joy forever"? metaphor	1 Mark
iii	Complete the following sentence. Beautiful things provide _____. happiness, joy, peace and inspiration	1 Mark
iv	Identify TRUE or FALSE. The poem teaches that true happiness comes from recognizing and valuing beauty in everyday life, which do not help in maintaining hope and emotional balance. FALSE	1 Mark
v	Assertion (A): Keats believes beauty is temporary. Reason (R): Beauty eventually passes into nothingness. a. Assertion is true but reason is false b. Both assertion and reason are false c. Both assertion and reason are true d. Assertion is false but reason is true b. Both assertion and reason are false	1 Mark
vi	What happens to its loveliness over time? Its loveliness increases rather than fading away.	1 Mark
Q. VIII.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	
A.	<i>Antarctica, because of her simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Take the microscopic phytoplankton — those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean's food chain. These single-celled plants use the sun's energy to assimilate carbon and synthesize organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of processes called photosynthesis. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of phytoplankton, which in turn will affect the lives of all the marine animals and birds of the region, and the global carbon cycle.</i> <i>Journey to the end of the earth</i>	
i	Explain the fundamental ecological importance of phytoplankton as described in the text. Answer: Phytoplankton are single-celled plants, the grasses of the sea, that synthesize organic compounds and assimilate carbon using solar energy. They are the primary producers that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean	1 Mark

	food chain; without them, the ecosystem would collapse.	
ii	Fill in the blanks- Antarctica's <u>simple ecosystem</u> and <u>limited biodiversity</u> make it an ideal laboratory for scientists and researchers.	1 Mark
iii	Identify the central parable or existential lesson embedded in this ecological phenomenon. The parable of the phytoplankton is: take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place. It is a metaphor teaching us that protecting the microscopic components of our biosphere is the key to preserving global balance.	1 Mark
iv	Assertion (A): A minor disturbance in Antarctica's ecosystem can have consequences far beyond the region itself. Reason (R): Phytoplankton form the base of the Southern Ocean's food chain and also play an important role in the global carbon cycle. Choose the correct option: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. (c) A is true, but R is false. (d) A is false, but R is true. Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.	1 Mark
	OR	
B.	<i>"Sadao knew that his education was his father's chief concern. For this reason he had been sent at twenty-two to America to learn all that could be learned of surgery and medicine. He had come back at thirty, and before his father died he had seen Sadao become famous not only as a surgeon but as a scientist."</i>	
i	Assertion (A): Sadao's father played a significant role in shaping his professional success. Reason (R): He recognised the importance of education and sent Sadao to America for advanced training in surgery and medicine. Options: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. (c) A is true, but R is false. (d) A is false, but R is true. Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.	1 Mark
ii	Fill in the blanks- Sadao's journey from being a student in America to becoming a famous surgeon and scientist reveals about his <u>dedication, intellectual ability and perseverance</u>. (accept synonyms)	1 Mark
iii	What was the chief concern of Sadao's father? Ans. The influence of his father was quite strong on Sadao. His father never	1 Mark

	joked or played with him. Sadao's education was his father's chief concern. For this reason at 22, he was sent to America to study surgery and medicine. By the time his father died, Sadao had established himself as a famous surgeon and scientist. or was Sadao's education	
iv	What can be inferred about Sadao's father from the extract? (a) He wanted Sadao to leave Japan permanently and achieve excellence. (b) He wanted Sadao to gain knowledge and achieve excellence in his profession. (c) He wanted Sadao to become wealthy and powerful in his profession. (d) He wanted Sadao to become a doctor and permanently leave Japan.	1 Mark
Q. IX.	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	
A.	<i>"But I was not finished. I still wondered if I would be terror stricken when I was alone in the pool. I tried it. I swam the length up and down. Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, "Trying to scare me, eh?" Well, here's to you! Look! And off I'd go for another length of the pool.</i> <i>Deep Water</i>	
i	Why was the narrator still not satisfied after his training with the instructor? Although he had learned to swim, he still felt afraid whenever he entered the water. He wanted to completely overcome his fear and gain confidence in himself.	1 Mark
ii.	Answer True or False. The narrator's experience suggests that conquering fear is more meaningful than simply avoiding the situation that causes fear. TRUE	1 Mark
iii	What happened when the narrator swam alone in the pool? a. The terror of water returned strongly b. He was completely free of fear c. Some of the residual fear would return d. He gave up midway	1 Mark
iv	In the context of the extract, why is the word "terror" more appropriate than simply "fear" to describe the narrator's experience in the water? It conveys an intense and overwhelming feeling of fear.	1 Mark
v	Assertion (A): The narrator's old fear had not disappeared completely even after he had overcome his fear of swimming. Reason (R): The narrator challenged his fear by swimming repeatedly across the length of the pool. Options: a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A. c) A is true, but R is false. d) A is false, but R is true.	1 Mark
vi.	What evidence shows that Douglas had developed confidence? He would laugh at the terror and go for another round	1 Mark
	OR	

	Read the given extract to attempt the questions with reference to the context.	
B.	The stranger must have seemed incredulous, for the old man got up and went to the window, took down a leather pouch which hung on a nail in the very window frame and picked out three wrinkled ten-kronor bills. These he held up before the eyes of his guest, nodding knowingly and then stuffed them back into the pouch. <i>(The Rattrap)</i>	
i	Why does the old man's action of displaying his money make the stranger appear "incredulous"? Peddler was a total stranger and didnot expect the crofter's confidence or trust	1 Mark
ii	What does the old man's behaviour reveal about his personality? a) He is suspicious and cautious. b) He is lonely, trusting and eager for company. c) He is arrogant and boastful. d) He is fearful of strangers.	1 Mark
iii	Which inference about the relationship between the two men can best be drawn from the extract? a) The old man regards the stranger as a potential threat. b) The old man trusts the stranger more than the situation warrants. c) The stranger has already confessed his criminal intentions. d) Both men are equally suspicious of each other.	1 Mark
iv	The leather pouch becomes significant later in the story. What does it symbolically represent? It reveals peddler's philosophy of the rattrap and the pouch as the bait.	1 Mark
v	If the old man had been more cautious, how might the later events in the story have been different? He might not have revealed his money or invited the peddler into his home. Consequently, the peddler would probably not have been tempted to steal the money. He wouldn't be raised to Captain	1 Mark
vi	The peddler later steals the money despite the old man's kindness. What does this incident contribute to the central theme of <i>The Rattrap</i> ? The peddler was lured by the bait (pouch). It highlights the contrast between human kindness and human greed and shows that people can become trapped by their own weaknesses and choices.	1 Mark
Q. X.	Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words. Attempt any FIVE.	5x2=10 Marks
	i. What was more tempting to Franz rather than going to school? Franz found the warm, sunny weather and the chirping of birds more tempting than going to school. He also wanted to spend time watching the Prussian soldiers drilling in the open field instead of attending his lesson. ii. Is Saheb happy working at the tea-stall? Explain. No, Saheb is not truly happy working at the tea-stall. Although he earns some money and gets meals, he has lost the freedom he enjoyed as a ragpicker. His face no longer reflects the carefree look he once had, suggesting that he is burdened by responsibility.	

	iii. How does Kamala Das transform a personal experience into a universal concern? Kamala Das transforms her personal experience of seeing her ageing mother into a universal concern by expressing the common human fear of losing a loved one. Her emotions of love, anxiety, and separation resonate with readers across cultures and generations. iv. What childhood experience first contributed to Douglas's fear of water? Douglas's fear of water began when he was three or four years old. While playing at a California beach, a huge wave knocked him down and swept over him, leaving him frightened and traumatized. v. How does Edla's behaviour bring about a change in the peddler? Edla treats the peddler with kindness, dignity, and respect despite knowing his true identity. Her compassion restores his faith in humanity and inspires him to return the stolen money and reform himself. vi. Give two reasons why according to Pablo Neruda, Keeping Quiet is essential to attain a better, more peaceful world. According to Pablo Neruda, "Keeping Quiet" is essential for a better and more peaceful world because: 1. It gives people an opportunity for introspection—to pause, reflect on their actions, and understand the consequences of their behaviour. 2. It can put an end to violence and destruction—by encouraging people to stop harmful activities such as wars, exploitation, and environmental destruction, thereby promoting peace and harmony.	
Q. XI.	Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words. Attempt any TWO.	2x2=4 Marks
	i. Why can the Third Level be considered a metaphor? The Third Level can be considered a metaphor for escapism. It symbolizes the human desire to escape from the stress, insecurity, and complexities of modern life and seek comfort in a simpler, more peaceful past. It represents an imaginary refuge from reality. ii. How did Dr. Sadao help the American soldier escape? Dr. Sadao helped the American soldier, Tom, escape by arranging a boat for him. He told him to sail to a nearby island and wait there for a Korean fishing boat to take him to safety. Sadao also gave him food, water, clothing, and instructions and used signals at night to check whether he had been rescued. iii. Antarctica is unlike any other place on Earth. Justify the statement with reference to the lesson, Journey to the end of the earth.	

	A unique geographical landscape / A storehouse of Earth's history / Rich biodiversity: Despite its harsh conditions, Antarctica supports unique organisms such as phytoplankton, seals and penguins, forming an important part of the global ecosystem. A place of scientific significance/ it is a living laboratory that connects the Earth's past with its present and future.	
Q. XII.	Answer any ONE of the following questions: -	5 Marks
	i. "Beauty is subjective and cannot be confined to a fixed definition." Do you agree with this view? Express your stance with suitable justification, drawing upon the ideas and imagery presented in the poem, '<i>A Thing of Beauty</i>'. Ans. "Beauty is best left undefined." Beauty is subjective and cannot be confined to a fixed definition because different people find beauty in different experiences, objects and emotions. In <i>A Thing of Beauty</i>, John Keats presents beauty as a source of everlasting joy rather than something that can be measured or precisely described. The poet finds beauty in "a flowery band to bind us to the earth," in the sun, moon, trees, daffodils and clear streams. These beautiful elements provide comfort and help human beings overcome "gloomy days" and disappointment. Beauty also has a spiritual dimension, as it becomes an "endless fountain of immortal drink" that nourishes the human soul. Therefore, beauty is not restricted to physical appearance or conventional standards. It can be found in nature, art, relationships, memories and acts of kindness. Leaving beauty undefined allows each individual to experience and interpret it in a personal way. Thus, beauty is most powerful when it remains unlimited, subjective and open to imagination. ii. To be grateful is a great virtue of a gentleman. How did the peddler show his gratitude to Edla? <i>The Rattrap</i> Ans. The peddler showed his gratitude to Edla by returning the stolen thirty kronor that he had taken from the crofter. He left the money in a rattrap, along with a letter addressed to Edla. In the letter, he thanked her for treating him with kindness, compassion and respect even when she knew that he was a thief. He also returned the money to show that Edla's goodness had awakened the goodness within him. By signing himself as "Captain von Stahle," he indicated that her faith in him had helped him rise above his dishonest ways and regain his dignity. Thus, the peddler expressed his gratitude not merely through words but through honest action and moral transformation.	
Q. XIII.	Answer any ONE of the following questions: -	5 Marks
	i. The author calls her two-week stay in Antarctica, 'a chilling prospect'. How far do you think is she justified? What other features of the Antarctic environment are highlighted? Ans. The author is justified in calling her two-week stay in Antarctica "a chilling prospect" because Antarctica is an extremely cold, isolated and inhospitable continent. The vast stretches of ice, freezing temperatures, strong winds and lack of vegetation make survival difficult. The author also feels overwhelmed by the continent's immense silence, emptiness and isolation. However, the phrase "chilling prospect" has a deeper significance. Antarctica makes the author realise the seriousness of global warming and climate change. The continent is extremely sensitive to environmental	

	changes, and any disturbance in its ecosystem can have consequences for the entire planet. The other features highlighted in the lesson are: • Its vast ice sheets and snow-covered landscape. • Its pristine and unspoilt environment. • The presence of unique organisms such as phytoplankton and penguins. • Its significance as a storehouse of the Earth's geological and climatic history. • Its role as a place for scientific research and environmental study. • Its extraordinary silence, isolation and immense natural beauty. Thus, Antarctica is both beautiful and frightening—a magnificent natural world that also serves as a warning about the consequences of human interference with nature. ii. To choose between professional loyalty and patriotism was a dilemma for Dr. Sadao. How did he succeed in betraying neither? Ans. Dr. Sadao faced a difficult conflict between his professional duty as a doctor and his patriotic duty as a Japanese citizen during wartime. He succeeded in betraying neither by acting according to both responsibilities. • As a doctor, Sadao could not allow a wounded man to die merely because he was an enemy. He operated on the American soldier, treated his wounds and saved his life. • As a patriot, he did not openly defy his country or help the soldier remain in Japan. He informed the General about the American prisoner and later arranged for the soldier to escape by sea. • He also ensured that the soldier had food, water, clothing and a boat, enabling him to reach safety. Thus, Sadao maintained his professional ethics and humanity while also respecting his loyalty to his country. His actions show that compassion and professional responsibility can rise above the hatred created by war.	
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