CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

ENGLISH

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **34 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**
ii. This question paper is divided into **8 sections.**
iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 2** are unseen passage
iv. **Section B** – questions number **3 to 6** are case based questions
v. **Section C** – questions number **7 to 13** are grammar short
vi. **Section D** – questions number **14 to 18** are grammar mcqs
vii. **Section E** – questions number **19 to 26** are short answer
viii. **Section F** – questions number **27 to 28** are letter
ix. **Section G** – questions number **29 to 30** are paragraph
x. **Section H** – questions number **31 to 34** are long answer
xi. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.
xii. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1.

Read the following text :

1. Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity ? More than anything else : the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

2. Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.

3. A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5 years olds exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent among 13 to 15 years olds and a mere 2 percent among 25 years olds. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.

4. Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide — our rising inequality — that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed “the other 66 percent”, in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

5. Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us — in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us.(Created for academic usage / 410 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(1) The central idea of this passage is that : (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity. (B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies. (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio- economic trends. (D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

[1 Marks]

(2)

Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below :

Assertion : Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true.

Reason : Creativity is a social process.

(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation and assertion.

(B) Both the Assertion and 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.

[1 Marks]

(3)

Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used-up or depleted.

[1 Marks]

(4)

In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society.

[2 Marks]

(5)

According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture ?

[1 Marks]

(6)

What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

(7)

Complete the following with a suitable reason :

About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use_____.

[1 Marks]

(8)

Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank.

Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

Creativity is thus a_____ (economic, industrial, social) process.

[1 Marks]

Question 2.

Read the following text :

1. In today's contemporary online shopping landscape, a perfect storm of choice engulfs consumers. Research consistently indicates that individuals presented with a limited selection tend to make more confident and efficient decisions compared to those confronted with overwhelming choices.

2. Consequently, assisting consumers in navigating the vast expanse of options available online has evolved into a thriving industry on a global scale. Many brands and retailers now employ marketing strategies revolving around the aspects given in the table below :

3. For a relatively new breed of consumer product startups, a different approach emerges entirely. Rather than attempting to navigate the existing sea of products, these companies claim to revolutionize conventional consumer choices. Some brands offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.

4. The global product abundance could be more equitable. Unfortunately, creators often prioritize wealthier consumers.

5. For startups promising accessible simplicity, their very structure may eventually lead them back to an overwhelming array of choices. Most of these companies rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, and their inventors typically expect rapid growth.(Adapted for academic usage)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

Aspect	Description
Industry	Helping consumers decide what to buy online.
Marketing tools	Selecting, differentiation and discovery.
Data utilization	Digital advertising, cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests and more.
Retail Assistance	Algorithms, influencers and ad tech.
Challenge	Choice fatigue due to the overwhelming volume of consumer choices.
Solution	Lifestyle influencers on Instagram providing aspirational content and product recommendations.

(1) What does the use of the phrase 'a perfect storm of choice', by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings ? (A) The consumers are elated (B) The consumers are confused (C) The consumers are confident (D) The consumers are decisive

[1 Marks]

(2)

Identify the word in paragraph 2, that indicates that the writer feels assisting consumers has become a profitable industry.

[1 Marks]

(3)

Complete the following with a suitable reason :

The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because_____.

[1 Marks]

(4)

In the context of the last paragraph though the startups promise simplicity of access, what are the drawbacks of such a structure ?

[2 Marks]

(5)

Based on your understanding, fill the blank with the appropriate option from those given in brackets :

The solution to combat choice fatigue to_____ (follow / employ / recommend) lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improving content and product references.

[1 Marks]

(6)

Complete the sentence suitably :

The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to

_____.

[1 Marks]

(7)

Complete the following analogy approximately, based on your understanding of the table :

Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests etc. is to Data utilization as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to_____.

[1 Marks]

(8)

Based on the aspects mentioned in the table, mention the marketing

approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers

based on various factors.

[1 Marks]

(9)

Which aspect in the table pertains to presenting consumers with

carefully selected choices to assist decision-making ?

(A) Challenge

(B) Data utilization

(C) Marketing trends

(D) Retail assistance

[1 Marks]

Section B

Question 3. It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. (Nelson Mandela : A Long Walk to Freedom)

(1) What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker ? Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.

[1 Marks]

(2)

Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given

context :

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the

triumph over it.

(A) being fearless

(B) absence of fear

(C) feeding your fears

(D) ability to overcome fear

[1 Marks]

(3)

Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the

context of the given extract :

Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is

_____ (impossible to understand / seeped in reality).

[1 Marks]

(4)

Answer in about 40 words, with reference to the extract :

According to the author, what does true courage entail ? How

does this perspective differ from a common misconception about

courage ?

[2 Marks]

Question 4. There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. “I made some money yesterday,” he explained. “Now you’ll be paid regularly.” My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night’s rain. “Today we'll start writing sentences,” he said. He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.(The Thief’s Story)

(1) In the context of the given extract : What was the feelings UNLIKELY to have been on seeing ‘a fifty rupee note between his fingers’ ? (A) joyous (B) sad (C) unhappy (D) worried

[1 Marks]

(2)

How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the

narrator’s motivation and hope for the future ?

Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

(3)

Compare the meanings of the expressions :

“My heart sank”, and “My spirits rose”.

[1 Marks]

(4)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket :

The person spoken about did not let the narrator realise that

his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the_____(nobility

/ dishonesty) of his character.

[1 Marks]

Question 5. My head is full of whispers which tomorrow will be silent. Listen. The glass is breaking. The trees are stumbling forward into the night. Winds rush to meet them. The moon is broken like a mirror, its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest oak.(The Trees)

(1) The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is_____.

[1 Marks]

(2)

Based on the tone, discuss how Adreinne Rich presents the

conflict between man and nature.

[2 Marks]

(3)

What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in

the passage ?

(A) Calm and tranquil

(B) Eerie and foreboding

(C) Joyful and celebratory

(D) Melancholic and traumatic

[1 Marks]

(4)

Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow ?

[1 Marks]

Question 6. (I am Rapunzel, I have not care; life in a tower is tranquil and rare; I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!) Stop that sulking at once, Amanda ! You're always so moody, Amanda ! Anyone would think that I nagged at you, Amanda! (Amanda)

(1) Complete the following suitably : Amanda sulked and became moody because_____.

[1 Marks]

(2)

What does the girl constantly yearn for ? What do you pattern

about Amanda from the poem ?

[2 Marks]

(3)

What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line,

"life in a tower is tranquil and rare" ?

[1 Marks]

(4)

The tone of the speaker in the exclamation "Stop that sulking

at once, Amanda !" is

1. uncertain
2. aggressive
3. dominating
4. meek
5. moody

(A)1,2,4

(B) 2and 3

(C) 2,4and 5

(D) 4and 5

[1 Marks]

Section C

Question 7.

Read the given sentence from a story. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket :

As I entered the room, the first thing that struck me as odd, was the candle still_____ (burn) on the table. The curtains had been drawn back and the room was bright.

[1 Marks]

Question 8.

Identify and correct the error in the sentence taken from the article — 'The Hidden Health Risks of Bread Consumption'.

Health experts worldwide are concerning about the surge in health problems.

[1 Marks]

Error	Correction

Question 9.

Identify the error and supply the correct word in the format given below :

"Embrace change as an opportunity for personal growth and allowed it to improve your life."

[1 Marks]

Error	Correction

Question 10.

Report the dialogue between a shopkeeper and Ramesh :

Shopkeeper : What book do you want ?

Ramesh : A reference book for Physics which I can use for my project work.

The shopkeeper asked Ramesh which book did he want. Ramesh replied that_____.

[1 Marks]

Question 11.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an article published in a science magazine.

There are many inventions of science_____ (those / which / such) have benefitted human beings in many ways.

[1 Marks]

Question 12.

Report the dialogue between the residents' and the city planner, by completing the sentence :

City planner : "The new park is a result of several months of research and planning."

Residents : "We don't know who is more excited — we or our children !"

The city planner said that the new park_____ of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement, stating that they were unsure who was more excited — they or their children.

[1 Marks]

Question 13.

The following is an excerpt from a travelogue :

There is an error in the statement. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction.

Kanyakumari is popular for its beautiful beaches, unique Vivekananda Rock Memorial and stunning sunrise and sunset view.

[1 Marks]

	Error	Correction
(A)	is	are
(B)	for	of
(C)	and	also
(D)	view	views

Section D

Question 14. Complete the given statement, by filling the blank with the correct option. A mask is used to hide the identity_____ a person.

[1 Marks]

(A) of

(B) being

(C) for

(D) at

Question 15.

Read the following conversation : Student : Hello. I've come to ask about the English courses you run for international students. Administrator : Are you a student at the university ? Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue : The student greeted and mentioned that she_____ to inquire about the English courses for international students. The administrator enquired if she was a student at the university.

[1 Marks]

(A) has came

(B) had came

(C) has come

(D) had come

Question 16.

Complete the statement made by a career counsellor by filling the blank with the correct option : In our country,_____ universities offer a range of courses. That's why foreign students prefer Indian universities.

[1 Marks]

(A) few

(B) many

(C) each

(D) more

Question 17.

Choose the correct statement:

[1 Marks]

(A) He was swearing that he had not stolen the bag.

(B) He sweared that he had not stolen the bag.

(C) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

(D) He swears that he had not stolen the bag.

Question 18.

Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options to conclude the report. The report concludes that_____ learners have_____ knowledge of astrophysics.

[1 Marks]

(A) very few / some

(B) every/no

(C) some /every

(D) no/alotof

Section E

Question 19.

"Not from weeping or from grieving will anyone obtain peace of

mind; on the contrary his pain will be greater and his body will

suffer."

Validate this preaching of Buddha with reference to the story 'A

Sermon at Benaras'. (A Sermon at Benaras)

[3 Marks]

Question 20.

'The Ball Poem' deals with the undertones of loss and responsibility.

How is the poem very relatable to our lives and what important message/s do we learn from it ? (The Ball Poem)

[3 Marks]

Question 21.

The story, 'Mijbil the Otter', has it all — emotions, humour, certain surprising incidents and the freshness of a new and unique type of story. Explain how Maxwell has highlighted these in his story.(Mijbil — The Otter)

[3 Marks]

Question 22.

"He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards, he was no longer afraid." Describe the young seagull's feelings, emotions and experiences, just before this moment. (Two Stories about Flying)

[3 Marks]

Question 23.

The idea of beauty is a one-dimensional cultural conception or one that has been created by human beings themselves. Comment on the statement with reference to the conventional ideas of beauty in the poem 'For Anne Gregory'. (For Anne Gregory)

[3 Marks]

Question 24.

Examine the witty strategy used by Ausable in emerging as a super spy. (The Midnight Visitor)

[3 Marks]

Question 25.

'The Necklace' is a lesson in discontentment and unreasonable materialism. In light of the preceding statement, discuss Matilda's greatest failing.(The Necklace)

[3 Marks]

Question 26.

Think-tank excelled in misinterpreting and mispresenting things.

Do you agree ? Justify giving appropriate reasons.(The Book that Saved the Earth)

[3 Marks]

Section F

Question 27.

You are Garima/Gopal, a resident of B/66, Mall Road, Guwahati and a volunteer of 'Greenpeace India'. Write a letter to the editor of 'National Times'' expressing your concern about the grave and irreparable damage that environmental pollution is causing to the society. In megacities, rapid urbanization and rampant industrialization has played a key role in increasing the pressure on the limited resources.

Discuss how environmental degradation can be curbed with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

[5 Marks]

Question 28.

Obesity has become a global issue. The lack of physical fitness programmes and extra-curriculars has created significant problems

that could affect future health of youngsters. 39 percent of individuals around the world are overweight and 13 percent are obese. You are Shiksha/Sumit of Ramjas School, Ranchi. You believe that efforts by the government will help to turn the tide.

Write a letter to the Ministry of Health for implementing compulsory programmes at school level to emphasize need for proper nutrition and fitness from a young age.

[5 Marks]

Section G

Question 29.

The Pros and Cons of using the internet in everyday life are numerous. The internet is like a double-edged sword. Based on the information provided in the table below, write an analytical paragraph on the topic 'Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet' in not less than 120 words.

[5 Marks]

Pros and Cons of Internet

Pros	Cons
(1) Connectivity	(1) Data Security
(2) Communication speed and versatile working	(2) Social Isolation
(3) Learning Re-defined	(3) Addiction towards it
(4) Transfer of Data	(4) Plagiarism and copyright

Question 30.

Read the following details :

Students today are becoming victims of cyber-crime and cyber bullying in schools, which is affecting the mental health of students.

Write an analytical paragraph in 120 words on the problems and causes of cyber-crimes.

[5 Marks]

⇒ Misuse of Information Technology with the intention to trouble others.
⇒ It comes in various forms – hacking, negative comments – spreading rumours
Impact – spoils image, self-doubt, results in insecurities and complexes.
Causes – desire of power, seeking entertainment, escapism, inadequate regulations.

Section H

Question 31.

Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'.

[6 Marks]

Question 32.

The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities.(Diary of Anne Frank & Madam Rides the Bus)

[6 Marks]

Question 33.

Ebright's journey of becoming a leading scientist conveys a strong message to us. His inquisitiveness and competency drove him to become a great scientist. In what manner does Richard Ebright's perseverance, dedication and inquisitiveness inspire you to pursue your dreams ? (The Making of a Scientist)

[6 Marks]

Question 34.

It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of paths through honing their inherent qualities which enable them to shine bright and strong in life. In what ways, does Sulekha's teacher epitomize this saying ? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha ? (Bholi)

[6 Marks]