

Please check that this question paper contains 14 questions and 8 printed pages.

**CLASS-XI**  
**ENGLISH CORE**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks : 90**

**General Instructions :**

- (i) *This paper consists of four sections– A, B, C & D.*
- (ii) *Attempt all questions.*
- (iii) *Do not write anything on the question paper.*
- (iv) *All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.*
- (v) *Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.*
- (vi) *Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.*
- (vii) *Strictly adhere to the word limit given with each question. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the word limit.*

**Section-A (Reading Skills)**

**(20 Marks)**

**1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 12**

1. A data-driven review by Northwestern University researchers has sifted through innumerable studies on musical training to find that musical training also helps in learning skills including language, speech, memory, attention and even vocal emotion. The study was published in *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*. The studies covered came from labs all over the world, from scientists of varying scientific philosophies, using a wide range of research methods.
2. Scientists use the term neuroplasticity to describe the brain's ability to adapt and change as a result of training and experience over the course of a person's life. The studies covered in the Northwestern review offer a model of neuroplasticity, says Nina Kraus, lead author of the study. The research strongly suggests that the neural connections made during musical training also prime the brain for other aspects of human communication.
3. "An active engagement with musical sounds not only enhances neuroplasticity", she said, "but also enables the nervous system to provide the stable scaffolding of meaningful patterns so important to learning".
4. "The brain is unable to process all of the available sensory information from second to second, and thus must selectively enhance what is relevant," Kraus

said. Playing an instrument primes the brain to choose what is relevant in a complex process that may involve reading or remembering a score, timing issues and coordination with other musicians.

5. “A musician’s brain selectively enhances information-bearing elements in sound,” Kraus said. In a beautiful interrelationship between sensory and cognitive processes, the nervous system makes associations between complex sounds and what they mean. The efficient sound-to-meaning connections are important not only for music but for other aspects of communication.
6. The *Nature* article reviews literature showing, for example, that musicians are more successful than non-musicians in learning to incorporate sound patterns for a new language into words. Children who are musically trained show stronger neural activation to pitch changes in speech and have a better vocabulary and reading ability than children who did not receive music training.
7. Musicians trained to hear sounds embedded in a rich network of melodies and harmonies are primed to understand speech in a noisy background. They exhibit both enhanced cognitive and sensory abilities that give them a distinct advantage for processing speech in challenging listening environments compared with non-musicians.
8. Children with learning disorders are particularly vulnerable to the deleterious effects of background noise, according to the article. “Music training seems to strengthen the same neural processes that often are deficient in individuals with developmental dyslexia or who have difficulty hearing speech in noise.”
9. There is also a crucial link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things). This kind of intelligence, by which one can visualize various elements that should go together, is critical to the sort of thinking necessary for everything from solving advanced mathematics problems, to being able to pack a book-bag with everything that will be needed for the day.
10. The research review, the Northwestern researchers conclude, argues for serious investing of resources in music training in schools accompanied with rigorous examinations of the effects of such instruction on listening, learning, memory, attention and literacy skills.
11. “The effect of music training suggests that, akin to physical exercise and its impact on body fitness, music is a resource that tones the brain for auditory fitness and thus requires society to re-examine the role of music in shaping individual development,” the researchers conclude.

- (a) (i) What is neuroplasticity? 1
- (ii) “The brain is unable to process all of the available sensory information from second to second...” How does music help to enhance what is relevant? 2
- (iii) How do musically trained children show stronger neural activation than other children”? 2
- (iv) What kind of special abilities do musicians possess as compared with non-musicians? 2
- (v) How does musical training help children having learning disorders? 1
- (vi) What is spatial intelligence and how does music help to enhance it? 2
- (b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as given below: 2
  - (i) fixed firmly (para 7)
  - (ii) strict (para 10)

**2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 8**

1. Blood is a connective tissue transporting oxygen and carbon dioxide from lungs to tissues and vice-versa, nutrients to where they are needed, and hormones from glands to their site of action. Blood has many other constituents which help in different functions. Immune cells in blood help prevent and fight off illnesses and infections. Blood can also form clots, preventing fatal blood loss from minor cuts and scrapes.
2. In today’s world there is an immense need for a substance that could replace human blood. The reasons for which blood substitute is in need are many. First of all, though donations are increasing annually throughout the world, but demand is climbing much more rapidly. The blood supply is not always very safe in many regions of the world. Blood transfusion is the second largest source of HIV infections. Moreover, there is no practical way to test for prior transmitted diseases in donated blood, such as Mad Cow and Cruetzfeld Jacob disease, and other diseases could emerge as problems for the blood supply, including Small Pox and SARS. Blood substitutes can eventually improve on it.
3. Artificial blood which is being researched is basically of two kinds—one functions as volume expander and the other as oxygen carrier. Research is mostly being done on oxygen therapeutics which mimic human blood’s oxygen transport ability. They are basically of two categories based on transport mechanism: Per Fluorocarbon based, and Hemoglobin-based Oxygen Carriers.

4. Per Fluorocarbons (PFCs) particles are about 1/40 the size of the diameter of a red blood cell (RBC). This small size can enable PFC particles to traverse capillaries through which no RBCs are flowing. In theory this can benefit damaged, blood-starved tissues, which conventional red cells cannot reach. The good points associated with PFCs are that they are chemically inert and do not react with oxygen, allow easy transportation of oxygen to body parts, and minimize the effects of factors like pH and temperature in blood circulation.
5. However, there are a few side effects too, such as it causes flu-like symptoms, a decrease in blood platelet count, and as it absorbs oxygen passively, patients must breathe at a linear rate to ensure oxygenation of tissues.
6. Hemoglobin-based Oxygen Carriers (HBOCs) vaguely resemble RBCs. They are very dark red or burgundy in colour. They are made from sterilized hemoglobin which can come from variety of sources including RBCs from cow blood or genetically modified bacteria which can produce hemoglobin, even human placenta can be used as a source. The advantages of HBOCs are that they are very similar to RBCs in working, the molecules are much smaller than RBCs and can fit into spaces that the normal red blood cells cannot.
7. Artificial blood can be used by any person without even thinking what blood group he/she belongs to. Instances of disease transmission through blood would be reduced incredibly. There won't be any expiry date or maximum storage period. With research in full swing it will not be long before artificial blood would replace real blood in treating injuries and disease requiring blood transfusions.
  - (a) On the basis of reading the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum 4). Also supply an appropriate title to it. **5**
  - (b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as: **3**
    - (i) extremely large or great (para 2)
    - (ii) imitate (para 3)
    - (iii) to move across (para 4)

### **Section-B (Writing Skills)**

**(20 Marks)**

3. The flood in the Kosi river uprooted millions of people in Bihar. Write a report on 'River in Flood' in about 80 words describing the cause of flood, loss of life, crops, property etc. and the relief measures taken. You are Vishal / Veena, correspondent, The Times of India. **(4)**

OR

You are Sohan/Sneha. You saw a boy who was struck down by a scooter on the road. Give a factual description of how you helped the boy and arranged first aid for him. Give your description in 80 words mentioning the following points:

- Where and when the accident took place?
- How serious the injuries were?
- What did you do to help the boy?
- What did the doctors do?

4. In most Indian families, particularly in rural areas, the girl child is considered inferior to the male child. As a result of this bias, a daughter is considered a burden and she suffers discrimination in the matter of food, freedom, health and education. Write an article in about 150 words showing how such an attitude is harmful and unjust. You are Suresh/Reena. (8)

OR

In India, the urban poor live in sub-human conditions in slums. Look at the illustration given below and write an article in about 150 words on 'Possible steps to deal with slums in India'. You are Sneha/Rohit.



5. You are Ravi, a resident of 45, M.G. Road, New Delhi. In the wake of flyovers and Metro work going on all over Delhi, the roads have become pot-holed and congested. Lights at crossings do not work. Traffic police is found to be absent at many points. Write a letter to the Editor of Hindustan Times expressing your views on the bad roads and the bad traffic control. (150 words) (8)

OR

You are Rajan/Rajni Mehra, a software engineer, residing at 47 A, Ranjit Nagar, Chandigarh. You read an advertisement seeking web designers for a private company called Infinite Solutions, B-140, Sant Road, Mohali. Apply for the post with complete bio-data to the Personnel Manager of the company. (150 words)

**Section-C (Grammar)**

**(10 Marks)**

6. (i) **Fill in the blanks using suitable modals:** (2)

The medicines prescribed by the doctor (a) — relieve you of pain. But you (b) — always read the instructions before consuming the medicine. You (c) — stick on to the dose prescribed; otherwise you(d) — develop counter symptoms.

(ii) **Fill in the blanks with suitable clauses from those given in the box:** (2)

The process of ageing starts with conception in the mother’s womb. (a) — \_\_\_\_\_, we don’t realize (b) —\_\_\_\_\_when our limbs will grow weak, (c) —\_\_\_\_\_and our body will be unable to function (d) —\_\_\_\_\_.

as smoothly as before, when our eyesight will be less keen, when we are young, that there will be a time

7. **The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Find the error and write the error and the correct word in your answer sheet. The first one has been done for you as an example:** (4)

	Error	Correction
Broader and deeper knowledge have several advantages in material wealth. Knowledge can be used to make money, but it cannot really is purchased with money. It is acquired in individual effort. Worldly wealth is limited, knowledge being unlimited. It cannot be taken away or stealing. Wealth could diminish but knowledge increased when shared. A man of wealth is respected until he possesses it. A erudite person is respected even long after he is no more.	eg. have (a) — (b) — (c) — (d) — (e) — (f) — (g) — (h) —	has — — — — — — —

8. **Rearrange the following words and phrases to make meaningful sentences:** (2)

- (a) do not/the/take/the/weavers/to/their/trouble/prey/hunt
- (b) in/set/and/prey/wait/the/for/caught/they/to get/it/a/trap

**Section-D (Literature)****(40 Marks)****9. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (4)**

The seed I spent or sown it where  
The land is his and none of mine?  
We speak like strangers, there's no sign  
Of understanding in the air.

- (a) Who are referred to as 'I' and 'his'? 1  
(b) Why do they speak like strangers? 1  
(c) Explain 'the land is his and none of mine'. 1  
(d) Find the antonyms of the following words from the extract: 1  
(i) saved  
(ii) misunderstanding.

OR

Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings  
She launches away, towards the infinite  
And the laburnum subsides to empty.

- (a) Who is 'she'? 1  
(b) Where does she launch away? 1  
(c) Explain the meaning of the last line. 2

**10. Answer any two of the following questions in about 30 words each: (3×2)**

- (a) 'And of this circumstance there's nothing to say at all. Its silence silences', says the poetess in the poem, "A Photograph". What is she referring to?  
(b) There is a parallel drawn between rain and music in the poem, "The Voice of the Rain". Explain.  
(c) What realization comes to the child regarding adults in the poem, "Childhood"?

**11. Answer any five of the following questions in about 30 words each: (2×5)**

- (a) 'When the people are pious and good, their death is mourned even by creatures other than humans.' Justify with reference to 'The Portrait Of A Lady'.  
(b) What is common in *pranayama* and the Middle Void?  
(c) 'The first indication of impending disaster came at about 6 p.m.' What was the warning? What was the disaster that followed? (We're Not Afraid to Die...If We Can All Be Together)

- (d) 'You need some interaction to cause a transition', says Rajendra Deshpande to Prof. Gaintonde. What was the interaction in Prof. Gaintonde's case?
- (e) What problem did Carter face when he reached the Mummy of King Tut? How did he find a way out?
- (f) Mention any two ways in which Mr. Crocker Harris is different from the other teachers.

**12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-125 words: (10)**

The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in declining health. What are these 'vital signs'? How can the 'ecological shift' in human perception make the earth healthy?

OR

What was the purpose of Nick Middleton's journey to Mount Kailash? Briefly describe his experiences at Hor and Darchen towns culminating in his meeting with Norbu?

**13. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 words: (4)**

'I love it that people come and there's always food. I love this spirit of festivity;...' said Shahid to the author. Explain Shahid's friendly and cheerful nature as mentioned in the chapter 'The Ghat of the Only World'.

OR

Do you think that at the end of the story Andrew is justified in saying "I've done something" in the chapter 'Birth'?

**14. Answer any two of the following questions in 30-40 words each:(3×2)**

- (a) 'I think it's not facts that matter, but ideas.' To whom did Einstein say this and why?
- (b) How did Mrs Dorling receive Mrs. S's daughter when she came back after several years? How do you explain her behaviour?
- (c) 'Sometimes it does people good to have their feelings hurt.' Who says this and what does she say to hurt Mr. Pearson?