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**DAV PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ODISHA ZONE
HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION -2023-24**

- Please check that this question paper contains 11 printed pages.
- Check that this question paper contains 15 questions.
- Write down the Serial Number of the question in the left side of the margin before attempting it.
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. The candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer in the answer script during this period.

**CLASS-XI
SUBJECT-ENGLISH CORE (301)**

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks-80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

(i) This question paper has 15 questions. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) This question paper contains **THREE** sections- Section A: **READING SKILLS**, Section B: **GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS** and Section C: **LITERATURE**.

(iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

(iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly

(v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: Reading Skills(26 Marks)		
1	Read the passage given below	10
1	Once an organ donor's family gives its consent and the organs are matched to a recipient, medical professionals are faced with the onerous challenge of transporting organs while ensuring that the harvested organ reaches its destination in the shortest possible time. This is done in order to preserve the harvested organs and it involves the police, especially the traffic police department.	
2	The traditional method of transporting organs by road is referred to as a 'green corridor'. This process entails police escorting an ambulance, so as to move around traffic-usually a specific traffic lane is chosen and all signals on the route stay green to ensure it to reach its destination in the shortest possible time. A 'green corridor' is a route cleared and cordoned off by the traffic police to ensure the smooth and steady transportation of harvested organs, on most occasions, to those awaiting a life-saving transplant. Organs tend to have a very short preservation time, such as the heart, which has to be harvested and transplanted within four hours or the lungs, which can be preserved for only six hours once they are harvested. During the transportation, personnel are stationed at selected points to divert, control and clear the traffic giving way to the ambulance. Apart from this, a motorcade of police vehicles accompanies the ambulance ensuring that it does not face any problems.	
3	Experts point out the lack of a robust system to transport organs to super-speciality hospitals in least possible time. The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), the country's apex organ donation agency, is now framing a proposal to airlift cadaver organs and will send a report to the Union Health Ministry. "Cadaver organs have a short life and so transplant should be done within a few golden hours." Director (NOTTO) expressed. "Therefore, we are preparing a proposal for airlifting organs at any given moment."	
4	Most States do not have enough well-trained experts to retrieve or perform transplant procedures. Also, there is an acute shortage of advanced healthcare facilities to carry out a transplant. So, it is referred to other big centres in Metropolitan cities. Organs retrieved from Aurangabad, Indore, Surat, Pune are sent to Mumbai as these cities do not have super-speciality healthcare centres, informed officials. According to reports, in India, about fifty thousand to one lakh patients are suffering from acute heart failure and need heart transplant at any point of time. In a private set up, a heart transplant costs 15-20 lakhs, which is followed up by post-operative medication of about 30, 000 per month lifelong. (Article by TIMESNOWNEWS.COM published on 29 Sept 2018)	
	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below	10
i	Which paragraph has the argument to justify that the organ transplant is a dearly-won affair. (a) Paragraph 1 (b) Paragraph 2 (c) Paragraph 3 (d) Paragraph 4	1
ii	Explain the ground for the creation of the 'green corridor' as discussed in the passage.	1
iii	State the justification for the initiative being taken by NOTTO.	2
iv	The matter of organ transplantation is mostly referred to other big centres in Metropolitan cities because _____ (a) there is a shortage of trained experts to carry out the procedures. (b) there is an acute shortage of advanced healthcare facilities to carry out the processes. (c) organs tend to have a very short preservation time. (d) Both (a) and (b)	1

v	Mention one option that <i>DOES NOT</i> correspond to the facts in the passage. (a) The harvest and transplant of the organs involves a challenging task. (b) In India, about fifty thousand to one lakh patients need heart transplant at any point of time. (c) A motorcade of police vehicles accompanies the ambulance to ensure a safe passage. (d) The transplant is mostly needed by the traffic police department.	1
vi	What is being referred to by the phrase 'a few golden hours'?	1
vii	Mention the role of the traffic police during the execution of the green corridor.	2
viii	Statement A: The author of the passage talks of the traditional method referred to as a 'green corridor'. Statement R: The author is sceptical of this traditional method. (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 the incorrect explanation of A. (c) A is true but R is false. (d) A is false but R is true.	1
2.	Read the passage given below	8
1	Artificial Intelligence can digest large amounts of data and make rational decisions in situations where humans are swayed by emotions. But it also has the potential to influence human behaviour. That's why an AI code of ethics is necessary to ensure that intelligent machines do not take away human autonomy.	
2	<u>One O'Reilly report broke down usage by industry. They show the following:</u> <u>AI in different fields</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology: 17% • Financial Services: 15% • Healthcare: 9% • Education: 8% • Government/Public Sector: 6% • Telecomm: 5% • Manufacturing 4% • Retail: 4% • Media: 3% • Energy: 3% • Defence/Security: 3% • Other: 22% 	
3	AI is a system designed by humans to augment, replicate or replace human intelligence, and such systems are rapidly becoming integral to product development and organisational functioning. However, nine of every 10 organisations employing AI face ethical issues, according to Cap Gemini Research Institute. Also, 65 % of executives say they are aware of AI's discriminatory bias.	
4	AI systems are generated using large amounts of data. But if the data is faulty or biased, the AI will produce harmful and unfair results. That's why it has become imperative to frame the ethics of human - AI interaction, and organisations are devoting vast resources to develop such ethical codes.	

5	Science fiction writer Isaac Asimov foresaw the dangers of AI years ago and had proposed his three ‘Laws of Robotics’ to ensure the safe use of robotic and AI systems. His first law says robots must not cause harm to humans through their actions or inaction. The second law requires robots to comply with human orders, except when such orders conflict with the first law. The third law directs robots to safeguard their own existence as long as it aligns with the principles of the first and second laws.	
6	The central ethical concerns in human-AI interaction are preserving human autonomy and ensuring transparency, because while AI can augment human decision - making, it must not replace it entirely.	
7	In November 2021, Unesco provided the first - ever global AI standards. These ‘Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence’ aim to foster AI development and deployment prioritising human rights, autonomy, and well - being. They emphasise inclusivity, transparency, and accountability to avoid discrimination, biases and harm. Unesco's framework seeks to ensure that AI technologies align with human values and contribute positively to societies worldwide. Transparency is an important requirement to allow users to understand AI recommendations, identify their biases and prevent discrimination.	
8	At the same time, privacy and data protection are crucial to prevent data misuse. According to a report by ZDNet's Daphne Leprince - Ringuet, 51 organisations, including Algorithm Watch and the European Digital Society, submitted a letter to the European Union calling for an outright prohibition on surveillance activities. (Article published in the Times of India)	
A	On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options.	1x4
i.	Select the most suitable title for the above passage. (a) Importance of AI b) AI key to better future (c) AI and code of Ethics d) Unesco and global AI standards	1
ii.	Which of the following phrases accurately introduces the passage? (a) Need of ethical code for AI b) The farsightedness of Sir Isaac Asimov (c) AI and organizational functioning d) AI and Data	1
iii.	Which of the following statements best reflects the author’s opinion— (a) AI must not take away human autonomy (b) AI must not be promoted unless the ethical issues are resolved (c) Robotics with their actions and inactions must not cause harm to humans (d) Both human beings and machines are guided by emotions	1
iv.	Which of the following words can best replace the word ‘augment’ (para-3) (a) magnify (b) curtail (c) abridge (d) demolish	1
B	Answer the following questions briefly.	1x4
i.	State whether the following statement is TRUE/ FALSE/ PARTIALLY TRUE Statement- 35% of executives are not aware of AI’s discriminatory bias.	1
ii.	Which three fields have the least usage of AI according to the given data?	1
iii.	Mention how maintaining transparency is an urgent need in AI.	1
iv.	Substantiate the report of ZDNet’s Daphne Leprince.	1
3.	Read the passage given below:	8
1	Fasting is said to bring a host of benefits provided if done under medical supervision. Doctors explain how to go about it. Food is to the body what fuel is to a motor vehicle. It provides energy, helps repair and rejuvenation and confers many other benefits. A lot of research has been done and is being done on fasting. When one fasts, the digestive organs get	

	rest and all body mechanisms are cleansed. While fasting, the natural process of toxin excretion continues while influx of new toxins is reduced. The energy usually used for digestion is redirected to immune function and cell growth. Fasting helps you heal with greater speed, cleanses your liver, kidneys and colon, purifies your blood, helps you lose excess weight and water, flushes out toxins, clears the eyes and tongue and cleanses the breath.	
2	Another research says fasting, even occasionally, helps in de-toxification. Through fasting we restrict digestive activity and so energy is utilised to cleanse different systems. Fasting improves metabolism, sharpens the senses, calms the mind, helps lose weight, improves general immunity, improves concentration and mental clarity. Fasting, if understood and done under supervision, has tremendous benefits and impacts one at various planes; mental, emotional, physical and spiritual. Specifically it serves as an aid to effective detoxification, helps in repair and rejuvenation, offers rest to the gastro-intestinal system and promotes mobilisation of excess fat.	
3	The crucial point to note is the difference between fasting and starvation. Research suggests there are major health benefits to calorie restriction. Among other things it slows down the ageing process. According to the US National Academy of Sciences, other benefits include stress resistance, increased insulin sensitivity and increased lifespan.	
4	Glucose is the body's primary fuel source and is essential for the brain's functioning. When denied glucose for more than 4 - 8 hours, the body converts glycogen stored in the liver into a usable form of fuel and supplements it with small amounts of protein. This will last for upto 12 hours before the body turns to glycogen stored in muscles. If glucose is still denied at this point, the body continues to use fat for as long as it is available. If the fast is not broken, starvation occurs, as the body begins to use protein for fuel. Death can occur if fasting is pursued to the point of complete starvation.	
i.	<i>On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (Minimum 4) and a format you consider suitable. Supply an appropriate title to it.</i>	5
ii.	<i>Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words.</i>	3
4.	SECTION B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills(23 Marks)	
	<i>All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental</i>	
A.	Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the words given in the brackets.	4x1
	By the time Tom (i) _____ (notice) the doorbell, it had already rung three times. As usual, he (ii) _____ (have) listening to loud music on his stereo. He turned the stereo down and (iii) _____ (stand) up to answer the door. An old man (iv) _____ (stand) on the steps. The man began to speak slowly, asking for directions.	
B.	Transform the following sentences as per the instructions given below. Attempt ANY THREE.	3x1
i.	A blunder was committed by Vivek in the classroom.(Change into active voice)	1
ii.	I asked him why he had come late. (Rewrite as a simple sentence)	1
iii.	As soon as my boss left the office, it started to rain. (Rewrite the sentence using <i>No sooner.... than</i>)	1
iv.	The news reporter said, "The flight will be delayed by a few hours due to heavy rains." (Report the sentence in a suitable way)	1
5.	Attempt any ONE from A and B given below.(Word Limit:50)	3
A.	You lost some important documents some other day. You want to apply for duplicate documents for which you need to publish a public notice in a newspaper. Draft an	

	advertisement in not more than 50 words giving details about the lost documents.	
	OR	
B.	You are Vikram/Sonia, a graduate in history with specialization in Medieval India. You are well acquainted with places of historical interest in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. You are looking for the job of a tourist guide. Write an advertisement in about 50 words for the Situations Wanted column of a local newspaper. Contact no. 9997510234.	
6.	Attempt any ONE from A and B given below.(Word Limit:50)	3
A.	You are Vivek/Vandana, the Eco Club leader of Kalyanpur High School, Bhubaneswar. With the rising cases of Dengue and Malaria, your school has decided to organise a Health Mela in order to educate the people of your city. Make a catchy poster highlighting the causes and measures to be taken to stop this menace. Give all necessary details in about 50 words.	
	OR	
B.	You are the Director of St.Joseph Group of Schools. Design a poster creating awareness among all your students about the ‘Need & Importance of Digital Fasting Day’, observed in your institution.	
7.	Attempt any ONE from A and B given below.	5x1
A.	In order to promote reading habits in the students, your school has organised a Library Week and a ‘Weekly Reading Period’. You are Ranjan/Reena. You have to speak in the morning assembly about ‘The Importance of Reading’. You have noted the following points: (Within 120-150 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples to highlight the reading • Helps us enhance our knowledge and vocabulary • Helps explore the world • Develops imagination 	
	OR	
B.	The trafficking of exotic wildlife and wild animal parts is leading to an ecological disaster. Write a speech in about 120-150 words to be delivered on Environment Day on, “Man is the worst enemy of his fellow creatures”, giving some suggestions to overcome this state of affairs. You are Kritika/Karan, Environment Club secretary, Oswal Public School, Patna. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trafficking of exotic wild life seen • Over population, urbanisation & industrialization • Commercial attitude of people • unethical poaching • extinction of wild lives & rare species • ecological disaster • stop unlawful poaching & protect wild lives • stringent wild life act • eco-friendly attitude of people 	
8.	Attempt any ONE from A and B given below.	5x1
A.	Some people feel that electronic media (TV news) will bring about the end of print media (newspapers). What are your views on the issue? Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against this view. <p>use of visuals on TV----- authentic and fast-----not enough news for 24 hours telecast-----</p>	

iii.	The first line of this stanza begins with a question. Give reasons.	1								
10.	Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any ONE .	3x1								
A	<p>“What!” I shouted.</p> <p>“It’s out there in front of us,” they chorused, “as big as a battleship.”</p> <p>I rushed on deck and gazed with relief at the stark outline of Ile Amsterdam. It was only a bleak piece of volcanic rock, with little vegetation — the most beautiful island in the world!</p> <p>We anchored offshore for the night, and the next morning all 28 inhabitants of the island cheered as they helped us ashore.</p> <p>With land under my feet again, my thoughts were full of Larry and Herbie, cheerful and optimistic under the direst stress, and of Mary, who stayed at the wheel for all those crucial hours. Most of all, I thought of a seven-year-old girl, who did not want us to worry about a head injury (which subsequently took six minor operations to remove a recurring blood clot between skin and skull), and of a six-year-old boy who was not afraid to die.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-We are Not Afraid to Die... If We can all be Together</p>									
i.	<p>Select the option that lists the qualities of Suzanne and Jonathan</p> <p>1) daring 2) generous 3) patient</p> <p>4) disciplined 5) inspiring 6) courageous</p> <p>A.1,3 and 6 B. 3,4, and 5</p> <p>C.2 and 5 D. 1, 4 and 6</p>	1								
ii.	<p>Given below are four real-life situations. Choose the option that perfectly describes ‘direst stress’ as per the given extract.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Situation 1</td> <td>The policies were thoughtful and favourable that they brought direst stress among the workers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Situation 2</td> <td>He was struggling with his pessimism and was under the direst stress even when he was surrounded by a very supportive family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Situation 3</td> <td>The members were brought under direst stress when the much-anticipated list created by them was revealed in public view</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Situation 4</td> <td>The severed pieces of the wooden toy brought direst stress to the child in the slum</td> </tr> </table> <p>A. Situation 1 B. Situation 2</p> <p>C. Situation 3 D. Situation 4</p>	Situation 1	The policies were thoughtful and favourable that they brought direst stress among the workers	Situation 2	He was struggling with his pessimism and was under the direst stress even when he was surrounded by a very supportive family	Situation 3	The members were brought under direst stress when the much-anticipated list created by them was revealed in public view	Situation 4	The severed pieces of the wooden toy brought direst stress to the child in the slum	1
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Situation 4	The severed pieces of the wooden toy brought direst stress to the child in the slum									
iii.	The author’s purpose of using the phrase ‘as big as a battleship’ is to _____.	1								
OR										
B.	<p>“The night of the scan, workmen carried Tut from the tomb in his box. Like pallbearers they climbed a ramp and a flight of stairs into the swirling sand outside, then rose on a hydraulic lift into the trailer that held the scanner. Twenty minutes later two men emerged, sprinted for an office nearby, and returned with a pair of white plastic fans. The million-dollar scanner had quit because of sand in a cooler fan. “Curse of the pharaoh,” joked a guard nervously.”</p>									
i.	The situational challenge that the technicians faced is _____	1								
ii.	<p>“Curse of the pharaoh.” says about the speaker that he is _____</p> <p>(a) Speculative</p> <p>(b) Dogmatic</p> <p>(c) Superstitious</p> <p>(d) Dynamic</p>	1								

iii	See the use of the underlined word in the sentence below and choose the equivalent use of the word from the given option. “Like pallbearers they climbed a ramp and a <u>flight</u> of stairs into the swirling sand outside.” Choose the most appropriate option that justifies the correct use of ‘ <i>flight</i> ’. (a) Flight is natural to birds. (b) He watched the flight of a rocket to the moon. (c) Our flight is at noon. (d) Her apartment is four flights up.	1
11	Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow. Attempt any ONE .	4x1
A.	‘Every time she leaves here, she takes something home with her’, said my mother. She took all the table silver in one go. And then the antique plates that hung there. She had trouble lugging those large vases, and I’m worried she got a crick in her back from the crockery. My mother shook her head pityingly. ‘I would never have dared ask her. She suggested it to me herself. She even insisted. She wanted to save all my nice things. If we have to leave here, we shall lose everything, she says.’ ‘Have you agreed with her that she should keep everything?’ I asked. -The Address	
i.	Justify, to support the given opinion: To say that Mrs. Dorling, in her good self, was preserving all the precious belongings of Mrs. S is an extravagant claim.	1
ii.	The phrase ‘she even insisted’ expresses that the narrator’s mother is _____. (A) influential (B) fool (C) credulous (D) sympathetic	1
iii.	Which of the following statements is <i>incorrect</i> , according to the extract? (A) The narrator’s mother is compassionate. (B) Mrs. Dorling is good at instigating. (C) The narrator is fully convinced with her mother (D) It was troublesome to lug the large vases.	1
iv.	On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. Statement-1: The narrator was not convinced with her mother’s justifications. Statement-2: Narrator’s mother was extremely gullible. A. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot. B. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can. C. (1) is true but (2) is false. D. (2) is the reason for (1).	1
	OR	
B.	MRS FITZGERALD: Well, you ought to have done. Now —listen, Mrs Pearson. Don’t go soft on ’em again, else it’ll all have been wasted..... MRS PEARSON: I’ll try not to, Mrs Fitzgerald. MRS FITZGERALD: They’ve not had as long as I’d like to have given ’em — another hour or two’s rough treatment might have made it certain.....	

	<p>MRS PEARSON: I'm sure they'll do better now —though I don't know how I'm going to explain...</p> <p>MRS FITZGERALD: [severely] Don't you start any explaining or apologising—or you're done for.</p> <p>MRS PEARSON: [with spirit] It's all right for you, Mrs Fitzgerald. After all, they aren't your husband and children...</p> <p>MRS FITZGERALD: [impressively] Now you listen to me. You admitted yourself you were spoiling, 'em — and they didn't appreciate you. Any apologies—any explanations—an' you'll be straight back where you were. I'm warning you, dear. Just give 'em a look —a tone of voice— now an' again, to suggest you might be tough with 'em if you wanted to be— an' it ought to work. Anyhow, we can test it.</p>	
i.	<p>In the expression, “it'll all have been wasted... ,” ‘it’ refers to _____.</p> <p>(a) all the members of the house.</p> <p>(b) Mrs Pearson’s fate.</p> <p>(c) Mr Pearson’s image at the club.</p> <p>(d) the changes brought about by Mrs Fitzgerald.</p>	1
ii.	<p>“.....though I don't know how I'm going to explain...” shows the speaker’s apprehension that _____</p>	1
iii.	<p>Statement-A: Mrs Pearson should not start any explaining or apologising.</p> <p>Statement-R: Mrs Pearson will be straight back where she was.</p> <p>(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.</p> <p>(c) Both A and R are false.</p> <p>(d) A is false but R is true.</p>	1
iv.	<p>Identify a phrase from the extract which means the same as ‘be tough and strong in your words’</p>	1
12.	<p>Answer any TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.</p>	3x2
A.	<p>Zahi Hawas was worried and ultimately got relieved from his worries. Give instances from the narrative ‘Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues’ to justify the given statement.</p>	
	OR	
	<p>On the basis of your understanding of the lesson ‘The Adventure’, enumerate the consequences of the application of the catastrophic theory to the Battle of Panipat.</p>	
B.	<p>The essence of water for the earth does matter. If there is no rain, we find the parched land eagerly waiting for it. Justify this statement with reference to the poem “The Voice of the Rain”.</p>	
	OR	
	<p>How has Markus Natten highlighted the theme of hypocrisy in the poem ‘Childhood’?</p>	
13.	<p>Attempt any ONE of the following in about 40-50 words.</p>	3x1
A.	<p>Seeing Mourad riding the beautiful horse, Aram was both ‘delighted’ and ‘frightened’. Give reasons.</p>	
	OR	
B.	<p>The narrator in the chapter ‘The Address’ tries to remember the address and goes to the address. What is that thing that compelled the narrator to forget that address at the end of the story?</p>	
14.	<p>Attempt any ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.</p>	6x1
A.	<p>Khushwant Singh is successful in presenting the complete persona of his grandmother through his vivid presentation. Validate the statement with reference to the lesson The Portrait of a Lady.</p>	
	OR	

B.	Laburnum tree symbolises the fluctuation of human lives and Goldfinch is considered to be the soul if the tree is the body. The overall analysis of the poem speaks about the role of a mother and the importance of the tree. Critically analyse how Laburnum tree safeguards the babies and the role of the mother bird in this context.	
15.	Attempt any ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.	6x1
A.	We talk of women's liberation movement but it is a grim and sad reality that our women, except some, are slaves of the wheel as they were in the past. What place do women have in Indian society? Discuss with reference to ' Mother's Day '.	
	OR	
B.	A close study of the character Marga has given an insight to her quest for the address, a kind of respect that she gives her mother finding the exact address that was the ultimate aim of the narrator. If you were Marga, and after being pretended by Dorling, how would you convince her that you had actually come back from war and wanted to see your things! " The Address "	
