

**TERM II EXAMINATION 2021- 22**  
**ENGLISH CORE (301)**  
**CLASS-XII**

**Time allowed: 2 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 40**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections - READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

<b>SECTION A – READING</b>		<b>Marks</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Read the passage given below.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. In the heart of Praslin, the second largest island of Seychelles, is Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve, the smallest UNESCO World Heritage Site in the world, and the best place to see the prized coco de mer, the largest and heaviest nut in the world. Touted to be the probable Garden of Eden by British army officer Charles Gordon, who visited the area in 1881, the park is home to several endemic species, the most notable being the love nut.</li><li>2. Recently, my family and I visited the park to learn more about the nut that followed us everywhere — from the entry stamp on our passports to the name of our hotel, signages to paper napkins at restaurants, the nut was omnipresent.</li><li>3. Even on an island like Praslin that has a thick tree cover, the flora of Vallée de Mai feels different. Trees like takamaka, cinnamon, coconut and mango, found abundantly throughout the rest of the island, are missing here. Except for a winding mud path and a few signages, the 19.5 hectares of primeval forest remains intact. In the midst of towering trees, some as tall as 80 to 100 feet and with leaves so large and broad that barely any sunlight reaches the ground, it is easy to imagine going back in time. The wonder and awe that Gordon possibly experienced as he explored the forest is palpable. Enamoured by the coco de mer, Gordon sent a specimen to Kew Gardens in London along with a detailed illustrated letter highlighting the tree’s intriguing features. According to a Christie’s web page containing his manuscripts, he says it’s a ‘Curious tree in every way, unique among its kind and among trees’, with a nut ‘like a belly with thighs’.</li><li>4. The easiest way to identify the coco de mer from other palms is to look for its large triangular leaves that can grow up to 30 feet in length. It’s a dioecious tree, meaning there are separate female and male trees, and it takes as long as 25 to 50 years for the tree to reach maturity. It’s more likely that a number of endemic forest creatures like geckos and slugs aid with pollination.</li></ol>	

	<p>5. Before the discovery of Seychelles, coco de mer nuts washed up as far away as the shores of Maldives, where they were considered to be fruits of a mysterious palm growing under the sea. Today, there's rare chance a nut would float away. There are strict government regulations in place and nut-bearing trees are carefully monitored and guarded. Fallen nuts are collected by the Ministry of Environment, hollowed out, polished and sold as souvenirs for a handsome price, along with a permit.</p> <p>6. Efforts are being made to propagate the tree beyond the Praslin and Curieuse islands where they are naturally found. While the results of these initiatives are yet to be seen, there's no doubt the coco de mer is a steadfast nut, deeply in love with the land it hails from. There's an unsaid magic at play that ensures these trees thrive and grow in these patches of untouched forests and nowhere else, like they have for thousands of years. Who knows, maybe there is a divine hand involved in creating the love nut.</p>	
	<p><b>Based on your understanding of the passage, answer <u>any eight</u> out of the nine questions:</b></p>	<p><b>1*8</b></p>
	<p>i) Cite evidence from the passage, as the author says, that the nut was omnipresent.</p> <p>ii) ‘...<i>the park is home</i> to several endemic species.’ Explain the line?</p> <p>iii) Why does the author say that moving in the forest takes you back to primeval times?</p> <p>iv) What captivated the British army officer Charles Gordon that he mentions in his manuscripts?</p> <p>v) There's rare chance a nut would float away. Why?</p> <p>vi) Replace the underlined phrase with a word from para 3 to complete the meaning. The tension in the room was almost <u>easily noticed by the mind or the senses</u>.</p> <p>vii) Select a suitable phrase from para 5 to complete the following sentence appropriately. <i>The hostel has strict rules as the entry, exit and information of every individual at the gate is _____.</i></p> <p>viii) Why is it believed that the trees have divine intervention?</p> <p>ix) Find a word from the passage which means the same as ‘<i>memento</i>’.</p>	

## BIG CATS, SMALL NUMBERS

Conservation efforts, better protection measures helps species recuperate



■ The 2014 data holds out hope as the tiger population dipped to an all-time low in a decade in 2006

■ But Pilibhit in UP and Bor in Maharashtra have some catch-up to do

1. Good news is coming directly from the woods. The number of tigers in India has increased, though the raise being reported is marginal. There were 1706 tigers four years ago, and the figure has reached to somewhere between 1700 and 1800. Relying on a year-long survey, top government officials have corroborated this change in figures.
2. An official said “The data from some dwellings of tiger is still being collected; thus, we have not been able to reach to the exact increase in tiger population in 2014. But the initial proceedings have pointed towards a small rise in the population.”
3. It seems that the efforts to protect big cats have started paying off. The tiger population plunged to 1,411 in 2006 and the Indian government had to introduce a Tiger Task Force and various other initiatives to ensure the survival of this species.
4. Due to the fact that only a few habitats including Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand and Kaziranga National Park in Assam have a good tiger population, the raise between 2006 and 2010 did not reflect uniformly. When it comes to Madhya Pradesh, which was once a famous destination to sight tigers, the population of this species is still worrisome. Other known tiger destinations like Rajasthan and Maharashtra have also witnessed a decline in tiger population in some of their reserves.
5. Tiger census that started in early 2013 in India covers five landscapes, namely Shivalik-Gangetic Plains, Central India and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-Eastern India and Sunderbans. Apart from current tiger population, the census records useful data about other animals living alongside the big cats.

	<p>The data is very carefully assembled by installing camera traps, collecting DNA tests and gathering ground reports from thousands of foresters.</p> <p>6. There are 47 protected areas for tigers and the 10% of current population also lives in other dwellings, which are not in good condition. Thus, the latest report may show decline in tiger population in these dwellings. This 10% is not a small population to not think about and the authorities should come up with some plans if they want to maintain the increase in tiger population.</p> <p><b>Based on the reading of the above passage answer <u>ANY SIX</u> of the questions given below:</b></p>	
	<p>i. According to the data why does 2014 hold hope?  ii. Which figure of speech does the title of the data reveal?  iii. What measure does the survey show to increase the numbers of big cats?  iv. Why did the Indian government introduce a Tiger Task Force?  v. Apart from current tiger population, the census records useful data about other animals living alongside the big cats. How is it done?  vi. The tiger census gives coverage to a few landscapes. Name them.  vii. There is a decline in 10% of current population of the tigers. Justify.</p>	<b>1*6</b>
<b>SECTION B - WRITING</b>		
<b>3.</b>	<p>You are Nisha, residing in Gwalior. It is your cousin's wedding and your aunt staying close by has extended an invite to you. She has also requested your assistance for arrangements needed. Draft a reply of acceptance, in not more than 50 words.</p>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.</b>	<p>Attempt <u>ANY ONE</u> from <b>A</b> and <b>B</b> given below:</p> <p>A. You are Kiara Peter, residing at 14/7 Malviya Nagar, Delhi. You come across the following classified advertisement in a local daily. Write a letter, in about 120-150 words, applying for the post.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SITUATION VACANT</b></p> <p>WANTED a PGT - PTI, aged 25 years and above, to teach in a Co-Ed school, for the new session, in Delhi. Ability to speak, read and write English fluently, important. Experience preferred. Contact Ms Reshma Jaiswal, Co-ordinator of recruitment cell, Sunshine Public School, Delhi.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>B. Your esteemed school as part of NSS worked with the local underprivileged children in slums with the mission of EACH ONE TEACH ONE. You were able to distribute books and stationery by calling them to your school premises and organised a small programme for them as part of outreach programme. Mr Bhasin, the district co-ordinator presided over the function. Write a report</p>	<b>5</b>

	about this in 120-150 words covering all the details, such as training, teaching and infrastructure involved in the 'Each One Teach One' campaign, initiated by the district administration in association with your school.	
<b>SECTION C – LITERATURE</b>		
<b>5.</b>	<b>Attempt <u>ANY FIVE</u> of the six questions given below, within 40 words each.</b>	<b>2*5</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. You are the ironmaster of Ramsjo Iron Mills. You have to handover the stranger to the Sheriff by stating reasons that the stranger has cheated. You may begin like this..... <i>Sir, please arrest this cheat.....</i></li> <li>ii. Jack is very influenced by his mother's upbringing. It is universally acknowledged that 'mother knows best'. Explain how placing trust in one's parents will be rewarding..</li> <li>iii. The poet, Keats, expresses that the beauty of nature binds us to the earth. What justification does he hold to support his point of view?</li> <li>iv. Mahatma Gandhi as the sole representative of the sharecroppers of Champaran against the British landlords was able to bring the landlords to court. What was the conflict between them?</li> <li>v. Evans masterminded the plan to escape once more from the prison on the pretext of qualifying for a foreign language, German. What were the lapses on the part of the Governor/authorities to have aided him in escaping? (any 2)</li> <li>vi. Validate the title of the drama, '<i>On the Face of it.</i>'</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Answer <u>ANY TWO</u> of the following in about 120 -150 words:</b>	<b>4*2</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. '<b>INDIGO</b>' is a biography written by Louis Fischer, who was a fan-follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He met the hero of yesteryears of India and has delineated the recount of the struggle of the sharecroppers for understanding of the readers in the format of an article (introduction, discussion, cause and effect, problem and solution) Examine the chapter in this format in about 120-150 words.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. '<i>The Rattrap</i>' is a lesson of human loneliness and human predicament of being caught in the temptations of the world. Highlight the significance of the concluding part of the chapter with reference to the protagonist of the story.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. '<i>Aunt Jennifer's Tigers</i>' substantiates patriarchy through the use of symbols and the constraints of married life aunt experienced. Justify the art work of Aunt Jennifer in the light of the above statement.</li> </ul>	