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CLASS 12

English Elective

Sample Paper 1 - Questions

16 questions | 80 marks | 2026-27

Time: 3 hours. Answer all questions and subparts unless a choice is stated. Marks are shown on the right. Write answers on separate sheets. Independently prepared practice paper.

Literature contexts are retold prompts. Use the prescribed work for supporting evidence.

Section A - Reading skills

1. Read the original prose passage. **12**

A public archive digitised thousands of local documents and announced that its collection was now available to everyone. The announcement described a real achievement: readers no longer needed to travel to the building to view many fragile records. Yet the phrase everyone soon became the subject of a staff discussion. A collection could be online without being equally usable by all the people who might need it.

The first difficulty appeared in search results. Older documents used place names that had changed, and several names had more than one spelling. A reader searching with a familiar modern name could receive no results even when relevant records existed. The archive added linked terms and explanatory notes, making clear which names came from original records and which had been supplied by later cataloguers. Improving discovery did not require pretending that historical language had never changed.

Another problem concerned scanned handwriting. Automated transcription made large amounts of text searchable quickly, but errors were unevenly distributed. Unfamiliar personal names and regional expressions were particularly vulnerable. The archive displayed uncertain transcriptions beside the original image and invited corrections. Staff checked suggestions before accepting them. An editable record could improve over time without making every unverified contribution immediately authoritative.

Access also depended on equipment and connection speed. A beautifully scanned file could be too large for a reader using a basic phone and limited data. The team prepared smaller versions, plain-text descriptions and a clear route to request assistance. It kept the high-quality master images for preservation. Different versions served different purposes, and the existence of a detailed master did not make a convenient reading copy unnecessary.

The hardest decisions involved records containing personal information. Public interest did not erase every claim to privacy, and a document's age did not settle all questions about its effects on living people. The archive developed a review process, explained restrictions and provided a way to challenge a decision. Openness became a practice requiring reasons and accountability, rather than a slogan that eliminated judgement.

When the revised service launched, the archive described it as more accessible, rather than universally accessible. The wording sounded less dramatic, but it was more useful. It identified improvements while leaving room to hear from people still excluded. Digitisation had changed the means of access; it had not removed the need to consider language, technology, editorial authority and the people whose lives appeared in the records. A public collection fulfilled its purpose through the continuing work of making those relationships visible and open to discussion.

(a) What genuine benefit follows digitisation? **1**

(b) Why can a modern place-name search miss relevant documents? **1**

(c) How does the archive improve discovery without concealing historical language? **1**

(d) Why are automated transcription errors uneven? **1**

(e) How does the correction process balance participation and reliability? **2**

(f) Why are several file versions provided? **2**

(g) Why is a reasoned review process needed for personal records? **2**

(h) Explain why more accessible is a useful claim. **2**

2. Read the original poem. **4**

The key was borrowed for an hour,
the room was ours to mend;
we set the crooked chairs in rows
and asked a neighbour's friend.
She moved one chair beside the door
and left a wider way;
the smallest change upon the floor
changed what the room could say.
At dusk we gave the key back,
its ring against our hands;
a place belongs through what we do,
not only where it stands.

(a) What has the group borrowed? **1**

(b) Which practical change does the visitor make? **1**

(c) What does the wider way suggest beyond a physical gap? **1**

(d) Explain the contrast in the final two lines. **1**

3. Read the fictional data passage. **4**

The following data are fictional. A school asked 240 learners to select one preferred workshop from four options. Art received 72 choices, sport 96, science 48 and debate 24. Each learner selected exactly one option. The school then ran a workshop programme. Total attendance was 60 in its first week and 84 in its fourth week. The weeks did not necessarily contain the same participants. The timing changed during the programme, and no comparison group was used. In week four, 42 of the 60 people who received a feedback form returned it. The school wants to plan its next programme using the survey, attendance records and written comments. The records measure different things: an initial preference, participation on particular dates and the views of those who returned a form. They should not be treated as interchangeable evidence.

(a) How many learners selected art? **1**

(b) Which workshop received the most choices? **1**

(c) What percentage selected art? **1**

(d) Which workshop received the fewest choices? 1

Section B - Grammar and writing

4. Language practice: answer as directed. 8

(a) Choose: The list of activities (is/are) on the board. 1

(b) Correct: We have visited the museum yesterday. 1

(c) Report: Mira said, "I will return the book tomorrow." 1

(d) Join using although: The path was longer. We chose it because it was safer. 1

(e) Complete: If I had checked the date, I ___ (avoid) the mistake. 1

(f) Correct: There are less chairs than we need. 1

(g) Use the passive: The volunteers have cleaned the hall. 1

(h) Choose: You (must/may) return the borrowed equipment; it is compulsory. 1

5. Write an article of 150-200 words for the school magazine on learning from mistakes. Develop examples and explain the difference between accepting an error and ignoring its consequences. 5

6. Write a speech of 120-150 words for the school assembly on recognising the less visible work behind a successful event. Use concrete examples and suggest one action students can take. 5

7. Write an original narrative of 150-200 words beginning with the discovery of an old notebook. Show how a particular entry changes a character's understanding of an event. 5

8. Write a formal letter of 120-150 words to the editor about the need for accessible public reading spaces in your locality. Describe barriers and suggest practical improvements. 5

Section C - Literature

9. Answer either A or B. **6**

A. Support your interpretation with relevant textual evidence. Read the retold context below (not a textbook quotation): The tiger's changing experiences invite reflection beyond a simple human-animal opposition.
Explain how this situation develops the concern identified as Raja's perspective. Support your response with relevant details from the prescribed work.

OR

B. Explain how Margayya’s concern for wealth affects a family relationship in The Financial Expert.

10. Support your interpretation with relevant textual evidence. Read the retold context below (not a textbook quotation): Prakriti's response to recognition develops into a struggle over freedom and attachment. **6**
Explain how this situation develops the concern identified as Dignity and desire. Support your response with relevant details from the prescribed work.

11. Support your interpretation with relevant textual evidence. Discuss Public reasoning in the prescribed work. Explain the connection between character, situation and theme using relevant textual details. **2**

12. Support your interpretation with relevant textual evidence. Discuss Reflective consciousness in the prescribed work. Explain the connection between character, situation and theme using relevant textual details. **3**

13. Support your interpretation with relevant textual evidence. Discuss Time and continuity in the prescribed work. Explain the connection between character, situation and theme using relevant textual details. **5**

14. Answer either A or B. **2**

A. Why is the choice of a tiger narrator significant in A Tiger for Malgudi?

OR

B. How does Margayya’s financial advice create a relationship of dependence in The Financial Expert?

15. Answer either A or B. **3**

A. How does captivity affect Raja's understanding of human power in A Tiger for Malgudi?

OR

B. Explain how Margayya’s concern for wealth affects a family relationship in The Financial Expert.

16. Answer either A or B. **5**

A. Discuss how the Master's relationship with Raja develops the novel's exploration of self-control and freedom.

OR

B. Discuss how The Financial Expert examines the difference between financial success and a secure, meaningful life.

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