

This Question Paper consists of 27 questions and 14 printed pages.

Roll No.

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Code No. **71/SS/302/NS/A1**

Set **A1**

ENGLISH
(New Syllabus)
(302)

Day and Date of Examination

Signature of Invigilators 1.

2.

General Instructions :

1. Candidate must write his/her Roll Number on the first page of the Question Paper.
2. Please check the Question Paper to verify that the total pages and total number of questions contained in the Question Paper are the same as those printed on the top of the first page. Also check to see that the questions are in sequential order.
3. Making any identification mark in the Answer-Book or writing Roll Number anywhere other than the specified places will lead to disqualification of the candidate.
4. Write your Question Paper Code No. 71/SS/302/NS/A1, Set A1 on the Answer-Book.

302/11001A1



[P.T.O.]

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IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Question Papers of both **New Syllabus** and **Old Syllabus** are made available, one based on revised study material marked as **New Syllabus** and the other based on pre-revised study material marked as **Old Syllabus**.
2. **New Syllabus** is compulsory for those candidates who have registered for 2025 (Block-I) admission and are appearing in April 2026 Examinations.
3. **Old Syllabus** is compulsory for those candidates who had registered before 2025 (Block-I) admission.
4. Candidates are to answer only one Question Paper from the given two Question Papers.
5. Candidates are not allowed to mix questions from the given two Question Papers.



ENGLISH
(New Syllabus)
(302)

Time : 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

- Note :* (i) The question paper consists of 27 questions.
(ii) All questions are compulsory.
(iii) The marks allotted to each question are indicated against it.
(iv) Question Nos. **1** to **13** are objective-type questions that include MCQs, Fill in the Blanks, True/False, Match the Column, and One-word answer types. Each question has sub-parts carrying 1 mark each.
(v) Question Nos. **14** to **19** and **21** (in five sub-points) are very short answer-type questions carrying 2 marks.
(vi) Question Nos. **20** and **27** are short answer-type questions carrying 3 marks each. Question No. **22** carries 4 marks, divided into four sub-parts of equal marks. Question Nos. **24** to **26** are long answer-type questions carrying 4 marks each. Question No. **23** is an essay-type question carrying 6 marks.
(vii) An internal choice has been provided in some of questions. You have to attempt only one of the given choices in such questions.

- (1) Answers of all questions are to be given in the Answer-Book given to you.
(2) 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this Question Paper. The Question Paper will be distributed at 2:15 p.m. From 2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., the students will read the Question Paper only and will not write any answer on the Answer-Book during this period.

1. Choose the correct option from the given alternatives :

1×3=3

- (a) Why does Tagore emphasize “Where knowledge is free” in the poem?
(A) To promote religious rituals
(B) To support colonial governance
(C) To encourage people to memorize facts
(D) To highlight the importance of universal education
- (b) Why does Kipling describe ‘Triumph’ and ‘Disaster’ as ‘impostors’?
(A) It is because they are permanent states of life
(B) It is because they deceive us into losing perspective
(C) It is because they always bring happiness
(D) It is because they are easy to overcome
- (c) What does Kabir’s metaphor of the grinding mill (*Chalti Chakki*) reveal about human life?
(A) It shows the importance of agriculture in society
(B) It symbolizes the inevitability of change and opposing forces in life
(C) It highlights the futility of human effort
(D) It represents abundance and prosperity



2. Read the text carefully and choose the correct alternatives :

1×5=5

Good concentration is important to improve the memory. Learning and memorising by understanding and recalling what one has learnt is helpful. Organising and framing a logical relationship is important. Mastery not just of the content of the subject, but also the process of answering is equally important. Anxiety and fear hamper recall and result in a mental block during examination. Watching television for a long time could lower academic performance. It 'steals' away the reading time. Time management is about self-discipline. Time must be managed between filled and unfilled time. Filled time is the time spent sleeping, bathing, eating, dressing and attending school. A student has 10 hours of unfilled time. How best is the student going to utilise this? Make a timetable for the 10 hours. Seven to eight hours of sleep is necessary for optimal physical rest and brain functioning. A positive thought is the seed of a positive result. Always feel positive. This will help to lessen stress. If a student has symptoms of anxiety or depression, seek medical help immediately.

- (a) Concentration and memory are linked in the passage. Why does the passage emphasize 'good concentration' as important for memory?
- (A) It is because concentration helps avoid television distractions
 - (B) It is because concentration allows understanding and logical recall
 - (C) It is because concentration reduces filled time in a student's day
 - (D) It is because concentration ensures more sleep
- (b) Television is mentioned as affecting academic performance. What is implied about television watching in relation to academic performance?
- (A) It improves relaxation and reduces anxiety
 - (B) It helps students manage unfilled time better
 - (C) It reduces reading time and lowers performance
 - (D) It increases logical thinking and memory
- (c) The passage distinguishes between filled and unfilled time. Why does the passage make this distinction?
- (A) To show that filled time is wasted
 - (B) To highlight the importance of managing free hours effectively
 - (C) To suggest that filled time should be reduced
 - (D) To argue that unfilled time must be spent only on sleep
- (d) Positive thinking is described as a seed for results. What deeper message does the passage convey about positive thinking?
- (A) It guarantees success in examinations
 - (B) It reduces stress and leads to better outcomes
 - (C) It replaces the need for medical help
 - (D) It increases filled time in a student's schedule



- (e) Medical help is mentioned in relation to anxiety and depression. What can be inferred about the role of medical help in the passage?
- (A) It is unnecessary if students manage time well
- (B) It is only for those who fail examinations
- (C) It is essential when anxiety or depression symptoms appear
- (D) It is a substitute for concentration and memory skills

3. Identify the following sentences as *True* or *False* : 1×4=4

- (a) The astrologer deliberately chose his appearance and setting to impress and attract customers.
- (b) Ramlal's concern about Bholi's future shows that he valued her education more than her marriage prospects.
- (c) The man waiting in the doorway valued loyalty and friendship enough to keep a twenty-year-old appointment.
- (d) Her husband shares her desire for opulence and is equally distressed by their modest lifestyle.

4. Match the Column—I with Column—II in reference to 'Bholi' : 1×3=3

Column-I

Column-II

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Bholi attends school | (i) Challenges prejudice, uplifts Bholi |
| (b) Teacher's compassion | (ii) Reflects parental dilemma |
| (c) Ramlal concerned about marriage | (iii) Gains confidence and resilience |

5. Read the text carefully and choose the correct alternatives : 1×5=5

Money is often considered one of the most important aspects of our lives. Yet, wealth can also become a source of conflict, straining our connections, relationships, and friendships. In many cases, it is the root cause of bonds breaking apart.

People frequently turn to friends or family for financial support. However, when borrowed money is not repaid on time, rifts begin to appear. Lending money is usually an act of trust and compassion, but it can easily be taken for granted. Emotional ties often prevent both parties from setting clear repayment schedules. The lender may feel embarrassed to ask for the money back, while the borrower may start avoiding the person altogether.

Consider the example of a friend waiting for repayment while you are away on a luxury vacation. Such situations not only put your friendship at risk but also create resentment. Borrowing money from loved ones alters the balance of power in relationships, often leaving one party feeling exploited.

Ultimately, the easiest way to damage a relationship is to borrow or lend money. To preserve trust and harmony, it is wiser to avoid mixing finances with personal bonds.



- (a) Why does the passage suggest that money can damage relationships?
- (A) It is because money always brings happiness
 - (B) It is because borrowing and lending create misunderstandings
 - (C) It is because wealth makes people more generous
 - (D) It is because friends never ask for help
- (b) How does borrowing money from friends or family alter the balance of power in relationships?
- (A) It strengthens trust between individuals
 - (B) It makes relationships more equal
 - (C) It creates dependency and imbalance
 - (D) It has no effect on relationships
- (c) What example does the passage give to illustrate the strain caused by unpaid loans?
- (A) A borrower refusing to take vacations
 - (B) A friend waiting for repayment while the borrower enjoys a luxury vacation
 - (C) A lender asking for money back immediately
 - (D) A family member refusing to lend money
- (d) What is the overall tone of the passage?
- (A) Optimistic
 - (B) Critical
 - (C) Humorous
 - (D) Neutral
- (e) The word 'rift' in the passage most nearly means
- (A) friendship
 - (B) division
 - (C) agreement
 - (D) celebration

6. Read the following passage and identify the sentences as *True* and *False* : 1×5=5

Vehicles and the sports industry benefit from nanotechnology. What if your poor car is parked in the sun the whole day? It may not faint; but its paint fades, blisters develop and eventually flakes off, not to mention the dust and bird droppings. Luckily, your car manufacturer has got everything 'covered'. Vehicles these days have nano-ceramic coatings that mix with sealants.

These nano-coatings protect the vehicles from UV light, contaminants and the corrosive uric acid in bird droppings. A high-performance surface coating based on nanotechnology is capable of keeping the car surface and even upholstery and car components stain and dirt-free.



Sports industry has developed carbon nanotubes or silica nanoparticles, which when applied to sports equipment, enhance their performance. These nanomaterials render the equipment light-weight, reduce its wear and tear, and increase its strength and durability. Tennis balls with nano-clays applied on the interiors have optimal ball bounce, zero leakage and high durability to last through lengthy matches.

Coming up with improved light-weight golf clubs, skateboards, tennis racquets, and sports bikes, nanotechnology has charmed even celebrity sportspersons into becoming its fans.

- (a) Nanoceramic coatings on cars help prevent damage from UV rays and bird droppings.
- (b) Without nanotechnology, car paint remains unaffected by sunlight and contaminants.
- (c) Nanomaterials like carbon nanotubes make sports equipment lighter and more durable.
- (d) Tennis balls with nano-clays lose bounce quickly and cannot last through long matches.
- (e) Nanotechnology has influenced the design of golf clubs, skateboards, racquets, and bikes.

7. Fill in the blanks with proper tense of the verbs given in the brackets : 1×4=4

- (a) Will you tell me exactly what ____ (happen) last night!
- (b) Mrs. Maggie is my Maths teacher. She ____ (taught) me for four years.
- (c) I never thought of a career in medicine before I ____ (speak) to my Biology teacher.
- (d) Oh no! I ____ (forget) to bring my assignment! What am I going to do? This is the second time I am doing this!

8. Match the Column-I with Column-II : 1×4=4

<i>Column-I</i>	<i>Column-II</i>
(a) One who sacrifices her own desires for others	(i) Optimist
(b) One who always expects the best outcome	(ii) Philanthropist
(c) One who always expects the worst	(iii) Altruist
(d) One who spends money generously for others	(iv) Pessimist



9. Fill in the blanks with appropriate interrogation markers : 1×3=3

- (a) _____ do you want?
- (b) _____ they ever visited Delhi?
- (c) _____ do you prefer? Coffee or Tea

10. Match the word 'Depth' in Column-I with its correct meaning in Column-II : 1×4=4

Column-I

Column-II

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Depth of the ocean | (i) Profoundness or wisdom |
| (b) Depth of sorrow | (ii) Richness or fullness in quality |
| (c) Depth of knowledge | (iii) Distance from top to bottom |
| (d) Depth of colour | (iv) Intensity or seriousness |

11. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the words given in brackets : 1×3=3

- (a) Her _____ surprised everyone in the meeting. (decide)
- (b) The team celebrated their great _____. (achieve)
- (c) His _____ brought joy to the family. (arrive)

12. Read the following poem and answer the following questions : 1×3=3

Fire and Ice

By Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

- (a) Which poetic device is most evident in the opening lines "Some say the world will end in fire, / Some say in ice."?
(A) Metaphor (B) Simile
(C) Personification (D) Alliteration
- (b) The repetition of 'Some say' at the beginning of the poem is an example of
(A) assonance (B) alliteration
(C) hyperbole (D) irony
- (c) When Frost writes "From what I've tasted of desire", he uses
(A) imagery (B) simile
(C) personification (D) alliteration



13. Choose the correct alternatives :

1×4=4

- (a) Why does e-mail tend to be more loosely structured compared to paper-based communication?
- (A) It is because e-mail is always used for formal reports
(B) It is because receivers can immediately ask questions, making strict clarity less necessary
(C) It is because e-mail does not require any grammar or spelling at all
(D) It is because paper-based communication is less professional
- (b) Why is it important to include both the sender's and employer's information in a job application?
- (A) To make the letter look longer and more formal
(B) To allow the applicant to express personal opinions
(C) To ensure clear communication and proper addressing of the application
(D) To avoid attaching a résumé or CV
- (c) Why is brevity emphasized when writing a memo?
- (A) It is because memos are meant to be decorative documents
(B) It is because memos are always informal and casual
(C) It is because memos replace formal reports
(D) It is because readers are often busy and need information quickly
- (d) Why are reports considered a vital method of communication in firms and government offices?
- (A) It is because they objectively present information about business or situations
(B) It is because they allow employees to express personal opinions freely
(C) It is because they are mainly used for entertainment purposes
(D) It is because they replace verbal communication entirely

Answer the following questions (Q. Nos. 14–20) in 30–40 words each :

14. (a) What does the phrase “Where knowledge is free” imply in the poem? 2

OR

- (b) Why does Kipling call ‘Triumph’ and ‘Disaster’ as ‘impostors’?

15. Why does Tagore emphasize the union of thought and action? 2

16. (a) What were the three questions the King wanted answered? 2

OR

- (b) Why was the King dissatisfied with the answers given by his ministers and learned men?



17. Why was Bob confident Jimmy would come to meet him? 2

18. (a) What sacrifice did Monsieur Loisel make for Mathilde's dress? 2

OR

(b) How does Mathilde's reaction to Madame Forestier's jewellery reveal her personality?

19. What broader lesson does Bacon's essay convey about the role of studies? 2

20. (a) What does the note from Jimmy reveal about his character? 3

OR

(b) Why did the astrologer shiver when confronted by the stranger?

21. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions in 30 words each : 2×5=10

John was a captain of a ship. He was a proud captain. John was a part of the marine Police Force. He had been serving the department with complete responsibility for eight years. He loved sailing at sea. The smell of the sea and the freshness of the wind made him feel so calm and rejuvenated. The experience was so fantastic that it made John feel like he was on top of the world. He had spent a part of his life catching the criminals at sea. Pursuing them gave him strength to fight against the wrongs of the society.

One day John was with his friends, all sailing on a boat. John was off duty then, enjoying some relaxation at sea. They spent time fishing and laughing together.

James cheerfully said, "John, you finally get a break from chasing criminals!" John smilingly said, "Yes, but the sea always keeps me alert. You never know what you'll find out here."

After the day's fun, they were returning home when suddenly, in the middle of the ocean, they saw a ship releasing a huge amount of oil into the water.

Sam was shocked and said, "Look at that! They're poisoning the sea!" John became furious. He was shouting across the waves and said, "Stop! What you're doing is illegal! You're destroying the ocean!"

The men aboard the ship looked startled.

John in a commanding voice said, "Identify yourselves and halt immediately!" But instead of stopping, the ship began to speed away.

David was worried and said, "John, their ship is too fast. We'll never catch them in this boat." John was determined and said, "Then we'll report them. No one escapes the Marine Police Force." The ship was too fast. John's boat could not match its speed, and soon it was out of sight. James was frustrated and said, "They got away, John. What do we do now?" John (firmly): "We don't give up. Once we reach the shore, I'll inform the Marine Force base. They won't escape justice." When they reached the shore, John immediately contacted the department. John was on the



radio and spoke, "This is Captain John reporting. A ship named *Molly* was seen releasing oil into the sea. It sped away, but we must act quickly." Marine Officer was responding, "Copy that, Captain. We'll alert the entire force. Stay ready." John's friends stood beside him, voicing their protest. Sam: "Polluting the sea is a crime against nature. We support the Marine Police Force in stopping them." David: "Count us in, John. The ocean deserves protection." Announcements were made, and the entire force went in search of *Molly*. After hours of pursuit, the mission was successful. Officer was excited, "Captain, we've seized the ship! But there's more—smuggled goods were hidden on board." John was shocked, "So they weren't just polluters, but smugglers too. This is worse than we thought."

The police arrested the culprits and confiscated the goods. Later, at the Marine Force headquarters, John was honoured. Chief of Marine Police: "Captain John, your vigilance and leadership led us to capture dangerous violators. You've protected both the sea and society." John humbly said, "Thank you, Sir. This was an unforgettable experience. I'll carry this lesson with me for the rest of my life."

This was an unforgettable experience for John and he would remember the incident for the rest of the life.

- (a) Why was John considered a proud captain in the Marine Police Force?
- (b) What made John feel calm and rejuvenated whenever he sailed at sea?
- (c) How did John spend his leisure time with friends while off duty?
- (d) Why did David worry about catching the polluting ship named *Molly*?
- (e) How did John's friends show their support for protecting the ocean?

22. Do as directed :

1×4=4

- (a) He separated a slice from the loaf of bread.

(Rewrite the sentence using a phrasal verb for the underlined word)

- (b) Krishna wrote a letter and posted it immediately.

(Change the Voice)

- (c) They said, "We watched the movie yesterday."

(Change the Speech)

- (d) He worked hard, so he succeeded.

(Make it Complex Sentence)

23. Answer any *one* of the following questions in 150–200 words :

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- (a) Write a paragraph discussing the distraction caused by the excessive use of mobile phones by children.
- (b) Design a poster, educating the public about safe cyber practices such as creating strong passwords, avoiding suspicious links, protecting personal information, and practicing responsible social media use.



- (a) Read the passage given below and make notes on it using headings, sub-headings, and recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary :

You start your breakfast. Assume you are eating bread today. Ask what is the bread made of? And how? You pretty soon find out that bread is made of wheat. You ask again: "But how do we grow wheat?" Then you have to ask a farmer. He tells you how he grows wheat. But you are not satisfied. You want to know why a seed (the grain) sprouts into a small plant. This plant then grows and produces more grains on its body like a flower. We then dry this flower and thrash it to give us more grains of wheat. From one grain of wheat we got many more grains. Why? How? We get the answers to these detailed questions from the science of agriculture. In the next chapter, we will learn more about India's, agriculture.

We need water to drink, and it can come from a tank, well, river, or tap. But not all sources are safe. Water from a dirty tank may upset our stomach, so science helps us understand why. In laboratories, samples are analysed using instruments like microscopes, which reveal tiny organisms invisible to the naked eye. These organisms can harm our bodies if consumed. Science shows that boiling water kills them, making it safe to drink. Other impurities may also exist, requiring different scientific methods to remove. Thus, science ensures safe drinking water. Not everyone boils water, and some sources may naturally be pure, while some people's stomachs resist impurities. Even this variation is explained by science. What matters is the clear lesson: clean water is essential, and science provides the knowledge and methods to secure it. Through these insights, science safeguards one of our most basic human needs.

Science continues to shape modern life in ways that touch nearly every aspect of human existence. Beyond ensuring safe drinking water, it has revolutionized sanitation and hygiene. Water purification systems, chlorination, and filtration plants now provide clean water to millions, reducing the spread of diseases. In cities, sewage treatment plants prevent contamination of rivers and groundwater, safeguarding public health. From the smallest household need to global challenges, science has become the invisible force that sustains modern living, making life healthier, safer, and more convenient for mankind.

So, Science has transformed modern life in countless ways, making everyday living more efficient, healthier, and more connected. In transportation, high-speed trains, airplanes, and electric vehicles have reduced distances and made travel faster and more sustainable. In communication, mobile phones and the internet allow instant sharing of information, bridging cultures and communities across the globe. In healthcare, advanced diagnostic tools, vaccines, and surgical techniques have saved millions of lives and improved longevity. Agriculture has also benefited through mechanization, genetically improved crops, and irrigation systems that ensure food security for growing populations. Even in homes, science has simplified life with appliances,



renewable energy solutions, and smart technologies that enhance comfort and safety. Entertainment, too, has been revolutionized with digital platforms, virtual reality, and streaming services that bring creativity to our fingertips. From education to industry, science continues to empower mankind, offering opportunities for progress and shaping a future that is more sustainable, inclusive, and innovative.

OR

- (b) Read the passage given below and write a summary of the passage in your own words :

Built heritage is one of the most valuable treasures of human civilization, reflecting the creativity, skill, and achievements of societies across centuries. It includes historic buildings, monuments, sites, artefacts, and archives that embody cultural, artistic, architectural, and technological milestones. These structures and objects are not merely remnants of the past; they are living testimonies of human ingenuity and resilience. From ancient temples and forts to colonial-era buildings and modern museums, each piece of built heritage tells a story of the people who created it, their values, and their way of life.

Museums and archives preserve artefacts and documents that provide insights into history, traditions, and innovations. They allow us to study the evolution of art, science, and technology while safeguarding cultural identity. Monuments and historic sites, on the other hand, serve as symbols of collective memory and pride. They attract visitors from around the world, fostering tourism and intercultural exchange. Built heritage also plays a vital role in education, offering students and researchers tangible connections to the past.

In modern times, conservation of built heritage has become essential. Rapid urbanization, pollution, and neglect threaten these treasures. Science and technology now aid in preservation through advanced techniques like 3D scanning, digital archiving, and sustainable restoration methods. Protecting built heritage ensures that future generations can learn from and appreciate the achievements of their ancestors. Ultimately, these structures and artefacts remind us of our shared humanity, bridging the past with the present and inspiring us to build a future rooted in respect for culture and history.

25. (a) Imagine that you are the Manager of Green Valley Restaurant, Chennai. You ordered 20 cartons of fruit juice with Menu Enterprises, Bengaluru but received 20 cartons of soft drinks. Write a letter of complaint and request a replacement.

4

OR

- (b) Imagine that you are the Head of the Student Council, and you need to inform your fellow students about an upcoming school event to showcase Cyber Safety Awareness Workshop for students. Write a memo announcing the event, including the date, time, location and any preparations they need to make.



- 26. (a)** A School Annual Day Celebration was organised by your School on 25th November, 2025. Write a news clipping for the Residents' Welfare Association about the event.

4

OR

- (b)** As Purchase Officer for Neva Silk Manufacturers, Ambikapur, you wish to change the vendor who supplies Textile raw material to the company. Submit your report to the Managing Director, listing why the new vendor would be better for the company.

- 27. (a)** Write an e-mail to Hotel Sunrise, Bengaluru asking them to cancel your room reservation as your travel plans have changed, and mention that you will rebook later.

3

OR

- (b)** Write a résumé for Library Assistant in a School. Focus on your eagerness to contribute strong computer skills, knowledge of digital tools, and enthusiasm for supporting students and faculty in accessing resources and fostering a love for learning.

