

SUBJECT: COMPULSORY ENGLISH

Grade: XII Subject code: 0041 Full Marks: 75 Time: 3 hours

FIRST-TERMINAL PRACTICE PAPER — SET A

NEB-style practice paper; independently prepared and not an official NEB or school examination paper.

Candidates are expected to use their own words as far as practicable. The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Attempt all questions. Literature questions are restricted to the first three short stories, first three poems and first three essays; one-act plays and later literature units are not included.

1. Read the following text and complete the tasks that follow. [15]

A student who wants to learn more does not always need to study for longer hours. What matters is how carefully attention is used. Before beginning, it helps to make a **deliberate** plan: choose one task, decide how long to work on it, and keep the needed books nearby. A clear goal makes it easier to notice when attention begins to drift.

The largest **distraction** for many students is a stream of small interruptions. A message may take only a few seconds to read, yet returning to a difficult problem can take much longer. One practical step is to place a phone out of reach and check it only at a planned time. This does not mean that technology is harmful; it means that a learner should choose when to use it rather than let it choose for them.

Focused study also needs rest. A short pause after a reasonable period of work gives the mind time to recover. Stretching, drinking water or looking away from a screen can help a student **sustain** attention through the day. If a method stops working, students can **adapt** it: a difficult chapter might be divided into smaller parts, or a group discussion might replace silent reading.

Good learning depends on more than effort. Notes should be accurate and **reliable**, and students should check claims against a textbook or another trustworthy source. It is easy to repeat an attractive statement without asking where it came from. Asking questions, comparing evidence and admitting uncertainty are not signs of weakness; they are habits of critical thinking. Small improvements may be **gradual**, but over time they can change the way a student understands a subject. Quiet study spaces are sometimes **overlooked** as a resource.

A. Complete the sentences using words highlighted in the text. Two words are not necessary. [5 × 1 = 5]

1. A plan made after careful thought is a _____ plan.
2. An interruption that takes attention away from a task is a _____.
3. To continue doing something over time is to _____ it.
4. To change a method to suit a new situation is to _____ it.
5. Information that can be trusted is _____.

B. Write TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN. [5 × 1 = 5]

1. The passage claims that studying for more hours always leads to better learning.

2. A phone message can cost more study time than the few seconds spent reading it.
3. The passage recommends never using technology for learning.
4. The author says every school has a formal programme for teaching critical thinking.
5. Checking a claim against a trustworthy source is recommended.

C. Answer in ONE sentence each. [5 × 1 = 5]

1. What should a student decide before starting a study task?
2. Why can a brief phone interruption have a larger cost?
3. Name one activity suggested for a short study pause.
4. Give one way a student can adapt a difficult chapter.
5. What habits does the writer associate with critical thinking?

2. Write short answers to the following questions in about 75 words each. [5 × 2 = 10]

- (a) How do the young couple's household roles challenge the expectations of their neighbours? (Neighbours)
- (b) How does Mrs Baroda's impression of Gouvernail change during his visit? (A Respectable Woman)
- (c) Why is Rakesh's success a source of both pride and tension in the family? (A Devoted Son)
- (d) What does the child's point of view contribute to the poem A Day?
- (e) What distinction does Bertrand Russell make between knowledge and wisdom?

3. Write long answers to the following questions in about 150 words each. [2 × 5 = 10]

- (a) Explain how I Was My Own Route presents a speaker who resists living only by other people's expectations.
- (b) In Marriage as a Social Institution, how do social expectations shape marriage, and why can individual choice matter?

4. Summarise the following text in approximately 90 words. Write only the ideas of the original text; do not add your own opinions. [7]

A community library is more than a room filled with books. It is a shared place where people can read, ask questions and learn at their own pace. In some towns, the library also offers internet access, quiet study areas and help finding trustworthy information. These services matter to students who may not have a desk, a computer or a strong internet connection at home.

A library can bring generations together. Children may attend a storytelling session, while older residents use newspapers or learn how to access online services. A librarian can guide readers towards suitable material without deciding what they must think. This freedom encourages curiosity and independent judgement.

Keeping a library useful requires planning. Books need to match the interests and reading levels of the community. Opening hours should suit students and working people. Local schools, volunteers and public agencies can contribute, but trained staff and stable

funding are also important. Digital resources can widen access, yet they should not replace printed books or face-to-face support. When a community looks after its library, it protects a place where knowledge is shared rather than sold, and where learning can continue throughout life.

5. Write a letter to your cousin recommending a book or novel that you found worth reading. Describe what you liked most. Write about 180 words. [8]

6. “Digital tools improve learning only when they are used thoughtfully.” Discuss this statement in an essay of about 300 words. Include advantages, possible problems and the responsibilities of learners and teachers. [10]

7. Do as instructed and rewrite the sentences. [10 × 1 = 10]

- (a) You have completed the assignment, _____? (Add a suitable question tag.)
- (b) There is _____ information on the noticeboard. (Choose: many / much / few / several.)
- (c) Neither the teacher nor the students _____ ready to leave. (Use the correct form of be.)
- (d) You _____ wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle. (Choose: must / might / would / can.)
- (e) By the time the bus arrived, we _____ for twenty minutes. (Use the correct form of wait.)
- (f) She is good _____ solving puzzles. (Use the correct preposition.)
- (g) He avoided _____ the answer without checking the facts. (Use the correct form of give.)
- (h) Mina is a careful reader. Her brother is a careful reader too. (Join using **both ... and**.)
- (i) The school opened a new library. (Change into the passive voice.)
- (j) Rupa said, “I am preparing for the examination.” (Change into reported speech.)

8. Choose and copy the correct alternatives. [5 × 1 = 5]

- (a) Which word has a different final sound? (i) stopped (ii) laughed (iii) watched (iv) cleaned
- (b) In “They **plan** their work carefully,” the word plan is: (i) a noun (ii) a verb (iii) an adjective (iv) an adverb
- (c) Which word is correctly formed with the prefix **un-**? (i) unhappy (ii) impossible (iii) illegal (iv) unregular
- (d) Which word comes first alphabetically? (i) examine (ii) exact (iii) exceed (iv) exclaim
- (e) The school will _____ a reading survey next month. (i) carry out (ii) carry off (iii) carry on (iv) carry away

Best of luck.

FIRST-TERMINAL PRACTICE PAPER — SET B

NEB-style practice paper; independently prepared and not an official NEB or school examination paper.

Candidates are expected to use their own words as far as practicable. The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Attempt all questions. Literature questions are restricted to the first three short stories, first three poems and first three essays; one-act plays and later literature units are not included.

1. Read the following text and complete the tasks that follow. [15]

Trees in a town do more than make streets look pleasant. A line of trees can provide shade, lower the temperature around buildings and slow rainwater before it reaches drains. Their branches form a **canopy** that gives pedestrians relief on hot days. Leaves also **absorb** some pollutants from the air, although trees cannot replace the need to reduce pollution at its source.

Urban trees support wildlife as well. Birds and insects use them for food, shelter and nesting. A healthy tree can therefore become a small **habitat** in a crowded neighbourhood. The benefits are often **cumulative**: one tree may help a single street, while a connected network of green spaces can make a whole district cooler and more comfortable.

Planting trees is not enough by itself. The right species must be chosen for local soil, rainfall and available space. Young trees need water and protection while their roots become established. Damaged branches should be dealt with safely, and pavements must leave room for roots. A town that plans carefully can create a **resilient** green area that survives heat, wind and changing rainfall.

Residents can help by reporting damaged trees, protecting young plants and taking part in local planning. Public agencies should provide trained care and publish clear plans for maintenance. Green spaces should be accessible to everyone, not only to people who live in wealthy areas. With thoughtful design and regular care, urban trees can improve health, biodiversity and daily life for many years. Even where public land is **scarce**, shared schoolyards can be **maintained** as small green corridors.

A. Complete the sentences using words highlighted in the text. Two words are not necessary. [5 × 1 = 5]

1. The upper layer formed by the branches of trees is a _____.
2. To take in a substance, such as a pollutant, is to _____ it.
3. A natural place where an animal lives is its _____.
4. Benefits that build up over time are _____.
5. A system able to recover from difficulty is _____.

B. Write TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN. [5 × 1 = 5]

1. Trees can slow rainwater before it reaches drains.
2. Planting trees alone is enough to maintain a healthy urban forest.
3. The passage says local soil and rainfall should be considered when choosing species.
4. Every town in the country has already made a public tree-maintenance plan.

5. Green spaces should be accessible across different neighbourhoods.

C. Answer in ONE sentence each. [5 × 1 = 5]

1. Give one way trees can reduce heat around buildings.
2. Name two kinds of wildlife mentioned in the passage.
3. Why do young trees need protection?
4. Give one action residents can take to help.
5. Who should provide trained care for public green spaces?

2. Write short answers to the following questions in about 75 words each. [5 × 2 = 10]

- (a) What change in the neighbours' attitude is shown at the end of Neighbours?
- (b) What does Mrs Baroda imagine Gouvernail to be like before meeting him, and how does the real man differ? (A Respectable Woman)
- (c) How does A Devoted Son present the conflict between Rakesh's medical duty and Mr Varma's wish for independence?
- (d) What relationship with God is expressed in Every Morning I Wake?
- (e) What does Oliver Sacks suggest about the value of a well-used library in On Libraries?

3. Write long answers to the following questions in about 150 words each. [2 × 5 = 10]

- (a) Explain how the changing light in A Day helps the speaker describe the passage from morning to evening.
- (b) In Knowledge and Wisdom, why is the growth of knowledge not enough by itself? Explain Russell's central argument with examples.

4. Summarise the following text in approximately 90 words. Write only the ideas of the original text; do not add your own opinions. [7]

A QR code is a pattern of small squares that a camera can read. It can direct a user to a web page, display a menu, or open a payment service. Because it stores information in a compact form, it is useful in shops, transport systems, museums and schools. A visitor can scan a code to find details without typing a long address.

The convenience of QR codes depends on access to a suitable device and a reliable connection. A printed code may also be replaced or covered by a dishonest person, so users should check the destination before entering personal information. Businesses and public offices should make sure that the page opened by a code is secure and that important information is also available in another way.

QR codes can support learning when they link a classroom object to a video, a diagram or extra reading. They should not be used merely because the technology is new. A clear purpose, accurate information and respect for privacy are essential. When these conditions are met, a QR code can save time and connect people to useful resources; when they are ignored, it can create confusion or risk.

5. Write a formal letter to the editor of a national daily newspaper about the need for safe, quiet study spaces for students in your community. Write about 180 words. [8]

6. “Education should encourage students to ask questions, not only memorize answers.” Discuss this statement in an essay of about 300 words. [10]

7. Do as instructed and rewrite the sentences. [10 × 1 = 10]

- (a) Let’s begin the discussion, _____? (Add a suitable question tag.)
- (b) There are _____ books on the shelf, but only a few are about science. (Choose: much / many / little / any.)
- (c) The list of topics _____ on the teacher’s desk. (Use the correct form of be.)
- (d) If you want to improve, you _____ practise regularly. (Choose: should / might / could have / would have.)
- (e) She _____ in this town since 2022. (Use the correct form of live.)
- (f) We arrived _____ the library before it closed. (Choose the correct preposition: at / on / into / by.)
- (g) They decided _____ the experiment again. (Use the correct form of repeat.)
- (h) The book is useful. The website is useful. (Join using **not only ... but also**.)
- (i) The volunteers planted fifty trees. (Change into the passive voice.)
- (j) The teacher said to us, “Do not forget your notebooks.” (Change into reported speech.)

8. Choose and copy the correct alternatives. [5 × 1 = 5]

- (a) Which word has a different final sound? (i) bags (ii) rooms (iii) maps (iv) trees
- (b) In “They waited **outside**,” the word outside functions as: (i) a noun (ii) a verb (iii) an adverb (iv) an adjective
- (c) Which word correctly takes the prefix **im-**? (i) possible (ii) regular (iii) happy (iv) legal
- (d) Which word comes first alphabetically? (i) career (ii) cares (iii) caring (iv) cargo
- (e) Please _____ the lights before leaving the room. (i) turn off (ii) turn into (iii) turn up (iv) turn over

Best of luck.