



S.N.B. P's International School
Academic Year 2025-26
PERIODIC TEST-I
SET-2

Class: XII
Subject: English (301)
Marks: 40

Day: Tuesday
Date: 08/07/2025
Time: 2hrs.

General Instructions:

1. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills,
Section B: Creative Writing Skills
Section C: Literature.
2. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
3. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
4. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

SECTION A: READING

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12m)

You would have seen an increasing amount of “junk mail” showing up in your e-mail box. The so-called harmless activities of a small number of people are increasingly becoming a serious problem for the Internet.

Spam is the flooding of the Internet with many copies of the same message, in an attempt to force the message on people who would not otherwise choose to receive it.

Spam is basically electronic junk mail or junk newsgroup postings. It is sometimes confused with any unsolicited e-mail. But an old friend may also find your e-mail address on the Net and send you a message but this could hardly be called spam, even though it is unsolicited. Real spam is generally e-mailing advertising for some product sent to a **10**-mailing list or newsgroup.

In addition to wasting people's time with unwanted e-mail, spam also eats up a lot of network bandwidth. There are many organisations and individuals who have taken it upon themselves to fight spam with a variety of techniques. The problem is that because the Internet is public, there is very little that can be done to prevent spam, just as it is impossible to prevent junk mail.

One of the most recent examples of large-scale spamming was the hoax Ericsson e-mail about a free give away, something most people just cannot resist. The letter begins with a claim that since Nokia is giving away telephones, Ericsson will respond by giving away brand new WAP phone. But the recipient must forward the letter to a minimum of **20 20** people to receive the phone. The letter is signed by Anna Swelund, Executive Promotion Manager for Ericsson Marketing. It was

later discovered that there was no such person at Ericsson.

There are numerous instances of these e-mails being used maliciously by someone who has a grudge against an ex-spouse, a public official, a former teacher or someone else with an e-mail address. The person mentioned in the e-mail ends up with thousands of requests from people looking for confirmation that the e-mail—which they actually had nothing to do with—is true. Spamming works on our own greed to receive freebies. You are instructed by a total stranger (or a well-meaning but not very bright friend) to forward a message you know **30** nothing about, except for the fact that maybe a friend passed it along to you and about 90 of their other very close friends.

Very often the victim can receive so many e-mails (and sometimes faxes and phone calls in the more malicious cases) that they have to get a new e-mail box or phone number—thereby ruining established personal and professional communication channels, which was the original intent of the sender.

Most spam is commercial advertising, often for dubious products, get-rich-quick schemes, or quasi-legal services. It costs the sender very little to send—most of the costs are paid for by the recipient or the carriers rather than by the sender.

There are two main types of spam, and they have different effects on internet users. **40** Cancellable Usenet spam is a single message sent to 20 or more Usenet newsgroups. Usenet spam is aimed at “lurkers”, people who read newsgroups but rarely or never post and give their address away. Usenet spam robs users of the utility of the newsgroups by overwhelming them with a barrage of advertising or other irrelevant posts. Furthermore, Usenet spam subverts the ability of system administrators and owners to manage the topics they accept on the **1** systems.

E-mail spam targets individual users with direct mail messages. They typically cost users money out-of-pocket to receive. Most of us read or receive our mail through dial-up accounts while the meter is running, so to speak.

There is not much really that can be done to protect yourself except that you can **50** ensure your relative safety by creating internet e-mail accounts like Hotmail or Yahoo which can be easily and frequently changed. Further, these accounts also generally offer the option of blocking senders from whom you get spam and you can also opt to block e-mail which has been copied to more than 20 people.

One can also keep oneself informed about spammers through the Blacklist of Internet Advertisers, a popular report that describes the offending activities of spammers that routinely distribute large mailings via e-mail or post unwelcome advertising on newsgroups. You can also visit www.spam.abuse.net.

Another organisation devoted to countering the destructive effects of spam is MAPS or the Mail Abuse Prevention System. If an offending spammer cannot be shut down, the **60** spammer’s ISP may contact MAPS with the subnet addresses allocated to the spammer so those specific addresses may be used instead of the IP address of the entire ISP. The MAPS website at <http://mail-abuse.org> will yield more useful information on how to counter and control spam.

A. Choose the most appropriate option:

(1 x 4 = 4 marks)

(a) Email spam victimises

1. group
2. individuals
3. males
4. females

(b) Usenet spam deprives the users of

1. the utility of the newsgroups
2. net facility

3. actual information
4. none of the above

(c) Name the organisation that counters the devastating effects of spam

1. MASP
2. MAPS
3. MPAS
4. MSAP

(d) Who has to pay most of the costs of spam?

1. senders
2. receivers
3. carriers
4. either (ii) or (iii)

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

(1 x 6 = 6m)

(a) What is spam? What problems are caused to net surfers by spamming?

(b) Give an example of recent large-scale spamming.

(c) How does spamming work? Whom does it hit—sender or receiver?

(d) What are the two main types of spams and their effects on Internet users?

(e) How can one protect oneself against spam? Give two options.

(f) Who uses e-mail spam frequently?

C. Find words in the passage similar in meaning as:

(1 x 2 = 2m)

(a) a mischievous trick played on somebody for a joke (lines 10 to 20)

(b) disreputable or risky (lines 31 to 40)

SECTION B- WRITING SKILLS

II. You are Secretary of Gymkhana Club, Madurai. Write a notice in not more than 50 words informing the members to attend an extraordinary meeting of the governing body. Include details like date, time, venue etc. Sign as Prabhu Pratibha

(4m)

OR

You are Ruhi/Rahul, head girl/boy of ABC convent school. Your school is going to organize an inter-school singing competition. Write a notice for your school notice board inviting names of all the interested students.

SECTION C- LITERATURE

VI. Refer to the context

A. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

(4x2=8m)

1. 'I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile

(a) What was the poet's childhood fear?

(b) What were the poet's parting words?

- (c) What is the poetic device used in these lines?
- (d) Why did the poet smile and smile?

B. ‘When I passed the town hall there was a crowd in front of the bulletin-board. For the last two years all our bad news had come from there — the lost battles, the draft, the orders of the commanding officer — and I thought to myself, without stopping, “What can be the matter now?”’

1. How does the recurring use of the bulletin-board as a source of bad news reflect the collective psyche of the town? Answer in around 30 words.

2. State True or False.

None of the terms (a)-(d) can be applied to the statement — The narrator wondered, without stopping, what new bad news might be posted on the bulletin-board.

- (a) An indifference – lack of interest, concern, or sympathy
- (b) A premonition – a strong feeling that something is about to happen, especially something unpleasant
- (c) A resignation – the acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable
- (d) A curiosity – a strong desire to know or learn something

3. The information in the extract suggests that the town’s atmosphere was ____.

4. What might the narrator fear the new announcement about?

VI. Answer the questions in 40-50 words.

(5x2=10m)

- 1. How did the Tiger King save his kingdom from the British?
- 2. Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg?
- 3. Who did M. Hamel blame for the neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz?
- 4. “What a thunderclap these words were to me!” – Which were the words that shocked and surprised Franz?

5. Character sketch of Charley.

VII. Answer any one in 100-120 words

(6x1=6m)

- 1. With fear and ache inside her heart and words of assurance on lips and smile on the face, the poet presents two opposite and contrasting experiences. Why does the poet put on a smile?.
- 2. Giving a bribe is an evil practice. How did the Tiger King bribe the British officer to save his kingdom? How do you view this act of his?