

Sample Question Paper  
SECOND YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION  
PART I  
ENGLISH  
Maximum : 80 scores

Time: 2 1/2 hours  
Cool off time: 15 Minutes

HSE-II

**General instructions to candidates:**

- 15 Minutes is given as cool-off time.
- Use the 'cool-off time' to read the questions and plan your answers.
- Attempt the questions according to the instructions.
- Keep in mind, the score and time while answering the questions.

**Questions 1-4. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one mark.**

"Later on in life, I got to see something that reminded me of that stone bench once again."

1. Who is "I" referred to here ?
2. What is the stone bench called ?
3. Which word in the passage means 'made somebody remember' ?
4. The lesson belongs to the category of \_\_\_\_\_ (anecdote/Essay/travelogue)

**Questions 5-7. Read the excerpt from the poem "Mending" Wall and answer the questions that follow.**

"I see him there bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top. In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed"

5. Name the poem and the poet.
6. Who is referred to as "oldstone savage"?
7. Comment on the last line of this stanza.
8. Write the figure of speech used in the last line.

**Questions 9-12. Answer any three of the following. Each question carries 2 marks.**

9. Write two wall notices that you see in a post office.

10. Above us, a 'ship of the sky' roars northwards,  
drowning my brother's loud cries  
the Chief Minister's off like an arrow to the Centre  
to clamour for more grains.

- a) What does "Ship of sky" represent?
- b) Point out the Satire in the above lines.

11. As part of an anti-drug campaign the NSS unit of your school is conducting a Slogan Contest. Frame two slogans of your choice.

12. Report the following conversation.

Assistant: Try putting antiseptic on the paw.

Old Lady : Could you let me have some, please?

**Questions 13-19. Answer any five of the following. Each question carries 4 marks.**

13. "Crime and Punishment" deals with a teacher-student relationship. What are the qualities you expect from an ideal teacher? Answer in a paragraph.

14. Edit the following passage.

It is the Summer of 1989. As always, I am on my vacation in India. In one blistering Mumbai day, my taxi stop at a traffic signal.

15. You get a chance to meet Irfan Alam. Write four questions you might ask him.

16. Prepare a character sketch of Sudha Murthy's Grandfather as portrayed in Horegallu.

17. My father says, with obvious pride.  
Son, we've stopped working, on all rice.  
It was quite inconvenient.

The poem is a contrast between expectation and reality. Prepare a write up substantiating this.

18. 'This is going to hurt just a little bit' is a poem about the poet's experience of sitting in a dentist's chair with his mouth wide open. Do you have such an experience? Describe your experience.

19. You are very much moved by the plight of Nomita in the story Matchbox. You decide to write a personal blog to be posted on social media. Prepare the blog.

**Questions 20-25. Answer any five of the following. Each question carries 6 marks.**

20. Imagine that you are the reporter of a famous TV channel. You witness the contest between the Amigo Brothers. Prepare a live TV report.

21. Prepare a profile of Shaheen Mistri using the hints given below.

Born : 16 March 1971  
Education : The University of Manchester, University of Mumbai, St. Xavier's College.  
Nationality : Indian  
Books : Redrawing India: The Teach for India story, Miss Muglee goes to Mumbai.  
Organisations founded : Teach for India, Akanksha Foundation.  
Children : 2 daughters.

22. Corruption hinders the progress of a nation. Prepare a letter to the editor of a leading daily highlighting the issue.

23. Prepare a write up on the physical and mental impacts of drug abuse.

24. The Nature Club of your school organised a seminar on Conservation of nature as a part of World Environment Day. Prepare a seminar report.

25. Wall is a major symbol in the poem 'Mending Wall'. Elaborate the significance of the wall in the poem.

**Questions 26-28. Answer any two of the following. Each question carries 8 marks.**

26. Read the following advertisement.

Here is a golden chance for teachers.  
Age not above 30.  
Post graduation(in any subject) with not less than 80% marks.  
Fluency in English  
Aptitude for teaching  
Apply within 10 days to XYZ Education Centre, Chennai.  
You wish to apply for the job.

Prepare an application letter and a resume for the purpose.

27. Prepare the script of a speech on the topic 'Education is the key to Women Empowerment' to be delivered in the school assembly on International Women's Day.

28. Read the following poem and prepare an appreciation comparing it with the poem 'Rice'.

#### My Farmer Father

- Jasmine N Swantz

My father is a farmer,  
His heart is in the soil  
It's there he finds his solace,  
Among the grimy toil.  
He plants the seed in spring time,  
The corn, the beans, the hay.  
He prays that God would bless it,  
A harvest, Lord, I pray.  
He tills and cultivates it,  
Provides the most tender care,  
Believes that come October,  
He'll reap a harvest fair  
Blue skies are his Cathedral,  
A tractor, his altar of prayer  
God meets him in the cornfields  
They have communion there.

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