

**SECOND YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION, MARCH 2024**

Part – I

Time : 2½ Hours

**ENGLISH**

Cool-off time : 15 Minutes

Maximum : 80 Scores

**General Instructions to Candidates :**

- There is a 'Cool-off time' of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time.
- Use the 'Cool-off time' to get familiar with questions and to plan your answers.
- Read questions carefully before answering.
- Write answers to the specific number of questions as instructed.

**Questions 1-8. Answer all the questions. Each carries 1 score.****(8 × 1 = 8)**

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow :

*I'm the only witness against him. He asked - you can guess what...*

1. Who is the speaker ?
2. What has the speaker witnessed ?
3. Who is 'he' referred to here ?
4. What did he ask the speaker ?

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow :

Oh, just another kind of outdoor game,  
One on a side. It comes to little more:  
There where it is we do not need the wall:  
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.  
My apple trees will never get across  
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.

5. Name the poem and the poet.
6. What is described as an outdoor game ?
7. Why does the poet say that there is no need for a wall ?
8. Pick out the figure of speech in the last two lines.

(3 × 2 = 6)

Questions 9-12. Answer any 3. Each carries 2 scores.

9. Fill in the blanks with suitable phrasal verbs given in brackets.  
(run out, carry away, look forward to, put up with)
- (a) I \_\_\_\_\_ meeting you next week.  
(b) How can she \_\_\_\_\_ her noisy neighbours ?
10. The story Crime and Punishment is a satire on over-parenting. Give two pieces of advice to such parents. You may begin with,
- (a) You should not \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. K. Satchidanandan presents a different perspective of stammer in the poem *Stammer*. What does the poet think of stammer ? Give your response in not more than two sentences.
12. Fill in the blanks using suitable words given in brackets.  
Activities that (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (devastate/ devastates) the societies and environment  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ (continue/continues) unabated.

Questions 13-19. Answer any 5. Each carries 4 scores.

(5 × 4 = 20)

13. A few errors have crept in the following sentence. Edit it.  
(Errors are in the following areas: form, article, spelling, preposition).  
I would noticed a woman sitting by a side of the road, portioning out all-too meeger amounts to dal and rice for her family.
14. The play *Post Early for Christmas* is a source of laughter, yet beneath the humour lies a valuable life lesson for all of us to learn. **Substantiate.**
15. Shaheen Mistry felt that in St. Xavier's, Mumbai, a far more bookish form of learning replaced the academic rigour and intellectual stimulation she had received in Massachusetts. Do you agree with this opinion ?  
Give four points for or against the topic '*Indian system of education tends to prioritize theoretical knowledge over practical skills.*'
16. Report the following dialogue :
- Irfan Alam : I am so thirsty. Can you give me some water ?  
Rickshaw puller : Sorry, I don't carry water bottles in my rickshaw.  
Irfan Alam : I will buy eight bottles of water and keep it in your rickshaw. For every bottle you sell, we will make a profit of two rupees which we could split in half.

17. I spin the curtains, warp and woof,  
And shake the down to be their bed.  
Elaborate on the idea of the above lines.
18. Today's women are all set to take up various roles in life. In those roles, they might face many challenges.  
List out four qualities a woman needs, to face the challenges of life.
19. The African adage quoted by Christine Lagarde in her speech *The 3Ls of Empowerment* throws light on the importance of educating girl children.  
Explain the significance of the adage in a few words.

**Questions 20-25. Answer any 5. Each carries 6 scores.**

**(5 × 6 = 30)**

20. Proud of her husband, Martha narrates the whole incident, from the bank crash to Baldwin's placement in *The Third National*, to one of her friends.  
Write the narration in Martha's words.  
(Hints : misappropriation-crash-prison-bribe-reward)
21. The farmer in the play *Post Early for Christmas* reads the news about finding a bomb in a post office in London.  
Write the probable newspaper report.  
(Hints : time-bomb found - Scotland Yard- Christmas parcel- London post office-suspicious parcel- report)
22. Nomita, though clad in a "wealthy wife's saree", is not treated well by her husband Ajit, who wears the mask of a gentleman.  
Attempt a detailed character sketch of Ajit in the story *Matchbox*.
23. Acknowledging the tremendous social service done by Ratna, the human horegallu, her company awarded her 'The Social Worker of the Year Award'. Being the reporter of the local news channel, you got a chance to interview her. As expected, the interview turned out to be friendly and pleasant.  
Write the six interview questions you have asked Ratna and her responses to it.
24. Drug abuse has become a significant social menace that demands a collective effort to eradicate it from the society. As a member of the Souhrida Club, you decide to write a letter to the editor of a famous daily, showcasing your concern over the issue. Draft the likely letter.
25. Chemmanam Chacko beautifully portrays the contrast between expectations v/s reality of the narrator in the poem *Rice*. Substantiate.

Questions 26-28. Answer any 2. Each carries 8 scores.

(2 × 8 = 16)

26. Below is the advertisement issued by the HR department of Sammaan, inviting applications for recruitment for the post of General Manager. Draft a job application letter with a detailed resume.

<p><b>Vacancy</b> <b>General Manager</b> <b>Sammaan Foundation</b></p> <p>Qualification : Graduation in any discipline. Age : Between 20 and 30 Previous experience and good communication skill in English are preferred. Interested candidates may submit their application and resume in ten days via email to <a href="mailto:summaanhr@rediffmail.com">summaanhr@rediffmail.com</a>.</p>
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27. *Activities that devastate the environment and societies continue unabated. Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds.* Wangari Maathai calls on the young generation to take up this challenge. As the representative of the student community, you are to deliver a speech that would nurture a sensitive and reverential love for nature, in the school assembly on June 5, World Environmental Day. Write the script of the speech.  
(Hints : significance of the day-deforestation- industrialization-destroyed bio-diversity-afforestation- larger family of life)

28. Write an appreciation of the poem *Neighbour* in comparison with *Mending Wall* by Robert Frost.

**Neighbour**

Iain Crichton Smith

Build me a bridge over the stream  
to my neighbour's house  
where he is standing in \*dungarees  
in the fresh morning.

O ring of snowdrops  
spread wherever you want  
and you also blackbird  
sing across the fences.

My neighbour, if the rain falls on you,  
let it fall on me also  
from the same black cloud  
that does not recognise gates.  
(dungarees- a type of dress)