



**SECOND YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY  
SECOND TERMINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER-2023**

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 to 3. Read the following lines and answer the questions given below :**

Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top

In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.

He moves in darkness as it seems to me,

Not of woods only and the shade of trees.

1. Identify the poem. (1)
2. Who is mentioned here as He ? (1)
3. Explain the last two lines. (2)

**Read the following passage and answer the questions from 4 to 7 :**

'Masterji, this summer has been so hot. I have never seen such dry weather. Or, Masterji, it is getting difficult for me to carry these large loads on my head. Thank God for this horegallu. I wish my son would help, but he only wants to go to the city...'

4. Who is mentioned here as Masterji ? (1)
5. Why does the speaker thank the Horegallu ? (1)
6. Identify the author. (1)
7. Where does the son want to go ? (1)

**Questions 8 to 9. Fill in the blanks with the suitable words given in the brackets.**

[put up with, break out, call off, run out]

8. Don't smoke in the forest. Fires \_\_\_\_\_ easily at this time. (1)
9. I'm afraid; we have \_\_\_\_\_ of apple juice. (1)
10. Correct the errors in the following passage : (4)  
Initially, the work were difficult because they were unaware that an degraded environment leads in a scramble for scarce resources and may culminated in poverty and even conflict.

**Answer any 5 questions from 11 to 16. Each carries 4 scores.**

(5 × 4 = 20)

11. Why are women compared to matchboxes ?
12. Unemployment is one of the worst problems faced by any nation. Suggest four solutions to reduce the rate of unemployment.

13. Explain the lines :

Each time we stammer  
We are offering a sacrifice  
to the God of meanings.  
When a whole people stammer  
Stammer becomes their mother tongue;  
just as it is with us now.

14. Describe the method of operation of Irfan Alam's Sammaan foundation.

15. Prepare a blurb on any book you read recently.

16. Compare the thoughts and feelings of amigo brothers on the eve of their fight.

**Answer any 5 questions from 17 to 23. Each carries 6 scores.**

**(5 × 6 = 30)**

17. Imagine Wangari Maathai coming to your school to inaugurate the environmental club. As you are the secretary of the club, prepare a speech to introduce her.

18. Draft a blog on the topic "The impact of drug abuse".

19. "Honesty is the best policy, virtue will always be rewarded". Substantiate this statement based on your understanding of the character of Robert Baldwin.

20. Prepare a write-up on the satirical elements of the poem Rice.

21. Imagine that you have won the National Green Corps (NGC) Award for coordinating the activities of your school eco club. The award would be given away by the government of the state in the presence of the Chief Minister and other dignitaries. You are supposed to deliver a speech after receiving the award. Draft the speech.

22. Draft an e-mail inviting Ratna, to inaugurate the Souhrida Club in your school.

23. Prepare three questions to interview Shaheen Mistri, and write their answers too.

Answer any 2 questions from 24 to 26. Each carries 8 scores.

(2 × 8 = 16)

24. Write an article on the role of education in women's empowerment in the light of Christene Lagarde's speech 'The 3Ls of Empowerment'.
25. Prepare an application letter along with a detailed bio-data to submit to Shaheen Mistri's Akanksha Centre, expressing your willingness to work as a volunteer teacher in the centre.
26. Critically analyse the poem given below, comparing it with the poem 'Any Woman'.

*A Mother's Love*

A mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away.....  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking.....  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems.....  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret.....  
like the mysteries of creation.....  
A many splendoured miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

— Helen Steiner Rice