



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

**Answer all questions from 1 to 8. Each carries 1 score.****(8 × 1 = 8)**

Read the lines below and answer the questions that follow :

“Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends a frozen-ground-swell under it  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun,  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.”

1. Identify the poem and poet.
2. What is the figure of speech used in the first line ?
3. What happens to the upper boulders due to nature's action ?

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

My inspiration comes from my childhood experiences and observations of nature in rural Kenya. As I was growing up, I witnessed forests being cleared and replaced by commercial plantations, which destroyed local bio-diversity and the capacity of the forests to conserve water.

4. Who is the speaker here ?
5. Where did the author's inspiration primarily come from ?
6. How did the clearing of forests affect bio-diversity, according to the author ?
7. "Irfan Alam designed Sammaan rickshaws in such a way that they have plenty of space to display advertisements."  
Sammaan rickshaws..... (Complete the sentence suitably)

8. Edit the following :  
The brain governs moods, thoughts, but actions, not by a magical process, and by an incredibly complex series of chemically regulated controls.

**Answer any 3 questions from 9 to 12. Each carries 2 scores. (3 × 2 = 6)**

9. What is the central theme of the play 'The Hour of Truth' by Percival Wilde ?
10. What does the poet think of Stammer primarily ? How does he link stammer to silence ?
11. Report the following :  
Shaheen Mistri said, "Father, my life is in your hands. I want to do something for the children of India."
12. Fill in the blanks using suitable idioms from those given in brackets :  
(As quite as mouse, the pros and cons, an eagle's eye, In a nut shell )  
(a) Before making a final decision about moving to a new city, I need to weigh \_\_\_\_\_ of the opportunity.  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_, our team's project was a success, exceeding all our expectations.

**Answer any 5 questions from 13 to 19. Each carries 4 scores. (5 × 4 = 20)**

13. How does the speaker in the poem 'Any Woman' describe her role in the family ?  
What are the key metaphors used to express this role ?
14. Write a blog post on the importance of empathy and emotional support in everyday life, drawing inspiration from the anecdote 'Horegallu' by Sudha Murty.
15. Bring out the meaning of the following lines of the poem 'Stammer' in your own words :  
"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."

16. Success is not just about money or popularity it is something beyond that. Many young people are into social enterprises which demand a lot of commitment and hard work. Shaheen Mistri is one among them. Prepare four interview questions to ask her.
17. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets :  
John is now with the Global Times. He \_\_\_\_\_ (join) the organization two years ago. Since then, he \_\_\_\_\_ (write) several articles on environmental issues. Currently, he \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) a report on climate change. Next week, he \_\_\_\_\_ (make) a presentation on the impact of deforestation.
18. Drug related health disorders are many and varied. Write a short paragraph about it.
19. Irfan Alam is visiting your school for an interaction with students. As the school leader, you have to invite him on to stage. Prepare a short speech for introducing him to the audience.

**Answer any 5 questions from 20 to 25. Each carries 6 scores.**

**(5 × 6 = 30)**

20. Write an article on the theme of *suppression and resistance* as portrayed in Ashapurna Devi's 'Matchbox'.
21. Write a newspaper report on the boxing match between Antonio and Felix, describing the key moments of the fight and how each fighter demonstrated sportsmanship throughout the competition.
22. Based on the chapter 'A Three-Wheeled Revolution', draft an e-mail to Irfan Alam expressing your admiration for his initiative and asking your doubts about the challenges he faced.
23. Chemmanam Chacko's poem 'Rice' points out the neglect of traditional farming practices in Kerala. **Prepare the script of a speech on the role of local farming in promoting cultural identity and heritage in Kerala.**  
(Hints : Connection between agriculture and culture, loss of traditional practices, community events celebrating local food.)
24. According to the World Health Organization, 'Substance abuse is a complex condition, a brain disorder that is manifested by compulsive substance use despite harmful consequences'. Prepare an essay on the topic 'The Impact of Drug Abuse'.
25. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the municipal corporation of your city, requesting them to allocate more space for public parks and green areas in line with the environmental movement described in 'When a Sapling is Planted'.

Answer any 2 questions from 26 to 28. Each carries 8 scores.

26. Read the following poem given below and compare it with the poem 'Rice' :

**The Heart of the Earth**

In fields of green, where shadows fall,  
A farmer rises, answering the call.  
With sun-kissed skin and weathered hands,  
He toils each day on fertile lands.

From dawn's first light to evening's glow,  
He sows the seeds, watches them grow.  
With patience woven through every row,  
His sweat and dreams begin to show.

Through storms and drought, he stands so tall,  
A guardian of life, he gives his all.  
With hope in his heart, he fights each fight,  
In the rhythm of nature, he finds his light.

So here's to the farmer, steadfast and true,  
Whose labour feeds the world anew.  
In every harvest, his story thrives,  
A testament to those who keep hope alive.

27. In "The 3 Ls of Women Empowerment", Christine Lagarde argues that empowering women is a key factor in solving many global challenges. Evaluate her perspective critically and provide examples to support your analysis.

28. Below is a notice for a teaching position at a local school. Imagine you are qualified and interested. Write a letter of application and your CV.

**GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

45, Main Road,

Trivandrum, Kerala.

[www.greenwoodhigh.edu](http://www.greenwoodhigh.edu)

Wanted : Passionate and dedicated English Teacher.

Essential Qualifications : B.Ed. in English

Desirable Skills : Classroom Management, Lesson Planning

Experience : 2 years preferred