SECOND YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION, MARCH 2025

Part – 1   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 1-7. Answer all the questions.

"God has given me two ears to listen to others. I hear them out with sympathy and without any judgment. When a person in trouble or under a lot of strain finds an outlet for his worries, it relieves half of his burden."

1. Who is 'me' in this passage ?   (1)

2. Which word in the passage refers to 'a means of release' ?   (1)

3. Mention two qualities of a good listener.   (1)

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow :

"I am the pillars of the house;
The keystone of the arch am I.
Take me away, and roof and wall
Would fall to ruin me utterly."

4. Which word in the lines means 'completely' ?   (1)

5. Name the poetic device used here.   (1)

6. Whom does the poet speak about ?   (1)

7. Read the following conservation :

    Ajith   : Why are you saying whatever comes to your mouth ? Don't people forget ?

    Nomita : No they don't ! Why did you open my letter ?

    Rewrite this into reported speech.

    You may begin like

    (a) Ajit asked ....   (1)

    (b) Nomita replied ....   (1)

    Questions 8-11. Answer any 3 questions. Each carries 2 scores.   (3 × 2 = 6)

8. Edit the errors in the following sentence :

    The amigo brothers was not ashamed of hug each other tightly.

9. Your friend has a habit of smoking cigarettes. You decided to advise him to quit this habit. Write the likely advice.

    You may begin like

    (a) You should not ....

    (b) You must ....

10. Read the following sentences and rewrite them :

    They were eating some apples.

    She was reading the story 'Match box'.

    You may begin

    (a) Some apples ....

    (b) The story 'Match box' ....

11. Prepare two placards showing the importance of planting trees.

    Questions 12-18. Answer any 5 questions. Each carries 4 scores.   (5 × 4 = 20)

12. Elaborate on the ideas in the given line of the poem 'Mending Wall' by Robert Frost :

    "Good fences make good neighbours."

13. The Literacy Club of your school is going to dramatise 'The Hour of Truth'. As the announcer, how would you introduce the play to the audience just before its commencement ? Prepare the script of the announcement.

14. A teacher as a mentor has a crucial role in moulding a perfect citizen in our society. Analyse the character of the teacher in the story 'Crime and Punishment'.

15. You are greatly impressed by the entrepreneurship undertaken by Irfan Alam to uplift the rickshaw pullers. Draft an email inviting him to inaugurate the Social Service Club of your school.

16. 'Physical punishment will damage a child's mental growth.' Write two points against physical punishment and two in support of the topic.

17. The poem 'Rice' shows the tendency of modern farmers to replace food crops by cash crops. Write a blog describing the ill effects of this change in attitude.

18. As the reporter of a daily, you got a chance to interview Wangari Maathai. Write four relevant questions you may ask her.

Questions 19-24. Answer any 5 questions. Each carries 6 scores.   (5 × 6 = 30)

19. Nomita is infuriated by the behaviour of Ajit. She feels pity for her mother and herself. She writes a letter to her mother revealing the real nature of Ajit. Write the likely letter.

20. Your school has conducted a seminar on the topic 'The role of schools in woman empowerment'. Prepare a report of the seminar to be published in the school magazine.

21. Wangari Maathai says "Women are often the first to become aware of environmental damage". Do you agree with her opinion ? Substantiate your answer.

22. "Child, a horegallu is essential in any journey. We all carry our burdens according to our situation and capacities." These words of grandfather shows the significance of horegallus - living or non-living - in our society. Write an article about it in 150 words.

23. As the reporter of newspaper, you happened to be there in the post office when the incidents in 'Post Early For Christmas' occurred. Write a newspaper report about it.

24. "I have got only a few years to live, but I will live those as I have lived the rest of my life. I will go to my grave clean !" These words show how honest and faithful Baldwin is ! Write the character sketch of Robert Baldwin.

Questions 25-27. Answer any 2 questions. Each carries 8 scores. $(2 \times 8 = 16)$

25. 'Dangers of Drug Abuse' by Hardin B. Jones focuses on the effects of drugs on the brain and body. But you recognise its effects on society too. Write an essay on drug abuse and its impact on the society.

26. Inspired by Shaheen Mistri you wish to join Akanksha Foundation as a teacher-volunteer. You are Smitha, a post graduate in English Literature. Being a socially responsible person you are willing to share your knowledge and skill for the benefit of the underprivileged. Prepare a letter of application and a resume to be sent to the foundation.

27. Read the lines from the poem 'Silent, Strong Dad' written by Karen K. Boyer.

He never looks for praises,

He's never one to boast,

He just goes on quietly working

For those he loves the most

His dreams are seldom spoken,

His wants are very few

And most of the time his worries,

Will go unspoken, too.

He's there ..... a firm foundation

Through all our storms of Life

A sturdy hand to hold onto

In times of stress and strife

A true friend we can turn to

When times are good or bad

One of our greatest blessings,

The man that we call Dad.

[Meaning of difficult words : sturdy = strong, strife = dispute]

Now, compare the poem with 'Any Woman' by Catherine Tynan.

[Hints : Theme, message, style, tone, poetic devices etc.]