



**SECOND YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY**  
**SECOND TERMINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER-2025**

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 question carries 1 score. (8 × 1 = 8)**

**Questions 1 – 4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

As I conclude, I reflect on my childhood experience when I would visit a stream next to our home to fetch water for my mother. I would drink water straight from the stream. Playing among the arrowroot leaves, I tried in vain to pick up strands of frogs' eggs, believing they were beads.

1. Identify the speaker. (1)
2. The speaker used to visit a stream next to her/his home. Why? (1)
3. 'I would drink straight from the stream.' What does this tell you about the speaker's surroundings in those days? (1)
4. The word in the passage that means 'to collect' is \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
5. 'Arm in arm the champions had already left the ring.' Who are the 'champions' referred to? (1)

6. 'God has given me two ears to listen to others. I hear them out with sympathy and without any judgement.' Whose words are these ? (1)

Thou whom a woman laid in a manger,  
Take me not till the children grow!

7. The 'woman' referred in the lines is \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
8. What is the speaker's prayer ? (1)

**Questions 9 - 12. Attempt any three questions. Each question carries 2 scores. (3 × 2 = 6)**

9. On the eve of the boxing match, Felix is nervous, as he has to knock Antonio down, to be the champion. Aunt Lucy advises and motivates him. Write two pieces of advice that Aunt Lucy might have given him. You may use expressions like 'I think you ....', 'You must ....'

10. Report the following conversation :

- (a) The Policeman: Where are you going ?  
(b) The Postal Assistant: I am going to the animal dispensary.

11. Complete the passage with suitable phrasal verbs from the brackets.

(turn up, put in, put forward, turn out)

At a very young age, Irfan Alam (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of organising the rickshaw sector. Later, he (b) \_\_\_\_\_ to be one of the greatest social entrepreneurs the world has ever seen.

12. Justify the title 'Mending Wall'.

**Questions 13 - 19. Attempt any five questions. Each question carries 4 scores. (5 × 4 = 20)**

13. 'The Hour of Truth' portrays an honest man who upholds his principles and stands for truth. Prepare a review of the play.

14. You are hosting an online meeting of volunteers at the Akanksha Centre in your area. Shaheen Mistri is invited as the guest of honour. **Introduce** Shaheen to the participants.

15. **Elaborate** on 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.

16. You are making a presentation in your class based on your reading of 'Horegallu'. Write **four points** that you would stress on, to highlight the need to develop sensitivity towards humanity.
17. 'Only fools turn to rice-farming for gain.' Do you agree with the poet's father ? **Substantiate** your view in about 200 words.
18. Indiscriminate felling of trees leads to the devastation of the environment and many natural disasters. You are the first panellist to open a discussion on environment conservation. Draft the **introduction** to the topic.
19. Edit the passage given.  
When I gone to a dental clinic last week, I reminded off the poem 'This is Going to Hurt Just a Little Bit'. I couldn't help laugh when I saw the dentist.

**Questions 20 – 25. Answer any five questions. Each question carries 6 scores. (5 × 6 = 30)**

20. Irfan Alam teaches us valuable lessons of service, especially as a social entrepreneur. You happen to meet a rickshaw puller who is part of Sammaan Foundation. How will your interaction be ? Write the possible **conversation**.
21. Nomita is the typical illiterate Indian woman who falls prey to the suppressing norms of the patriarchal system. Is she responsible for what she has to undergo ? Attempt a **character sketch** of Nomita.
22. You are a television reporter reporting the boxing match between Antonio and Felix. You get an opportunity to meet Antonio just before the match. Write the **questions** that you would ask him and the possible **responses**. (3 exchanges)
23. The Environment Club of your school is planning to conduct a seminar to address issues related to environment. As the convenor of the Programme Committee, you are assigned the task of inviting dignitaries to the programme. Draft an **email** to be sent to the Minister of Forest and Wildlife, Govt of Kerala.
24. 'I approached twenty schools in the city....All of them refused for the most illogical reasons,' says Shaheen Mistri, about how she was treated by the authorities of some schools when she tried to establish Akanksha Centre in Mumbai. Though she did not receive any positive response, she did not give up. Write a **paragraph** about how one's undying passion leads one to success, in the light of your reading of 'Didi'.
25. The Foreign Tourist takes up the issue at the post office and reports to the higher authorities. Draft a **letter** that he might submit to the Post Master General, detailing how his parcel was mishandled.

**Questions 26 to 28. Answer any two questions. Each question carries 8 scores. (2 × 8 = 16)**

26. Nowadays, adolescents get involved in many issues that end up in assault and murder. Many of these issues are caused by weak familial ties and the use of drugs. On Anti Drugs Day, the Souhrida Club of your school is organising a one day awareness camp for parents of adolescent children. You are the Student Convenor, organising the programme. Draft the **speech** that you are likely to deliver at the inaugural ceremony.
27. A charitable organisation is opening evening schools for underprivileged children. Read their advertisement that appeared in newspapers and draft a **letter of application** and **CV**.

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28. Read the poem given below. Compare and contrast it with the poem 'Any Woman'.

Mother o' Mine

Rudyard Kipling

If I were hanged on the highest hill,

*Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!*

I know whose love would follow me still,

*Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!*

If I were drowned in the deepest sea,

*Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!*

I know whose tears would come down to me,

*Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!*

If I were damned of body and soul,

I know whose prayers would make me whole,

*Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!*