

# **Focus 21' English**

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**Dears,**

Hope you have become familiar with the 'focus area' in English. Here we discuss the five prose lessons and two poems included in the 'focus area'. You can perform your best if you work out systematically. Study the booklet well for the Public Examination.

This booklet consists of six sections:

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## Section I

### Summary of the Prose Lessons.

Dears,

Let's study the content of the five lessons to be focused. Attempts have been made to simplify the sentences so that our target group can pick them up easily. Here we aim at the content comprehension of the lessons.

#### **1.The Three Ls of Empowerment**

The 3Ls of Empowerment is a speech by Christine Lagarde.

Lagarde speaks on women empowerment.

There are three Ls of women empowerment.

They are learning, labour and leadership.

Learning is the foundation of all changes.

It empowers them.

Education of girls is important.

Job is a must for every woman.

They can identify their true potential.

It increases per capita income.

Leadership empowers women.

They can use their skills and talents.

Women leaders can take good decisions.

Women should be ready to step outside their comfort zones.

It will make a difference.

## **2.Matchbox**

The story Matchbox is written by Ashapura Debi.

Nomita is the central character of the story.

She is married to Ajit.

They live in a joint family.

Ajit opens and reads a letter addressed to Nomita without her permission.

This behaviour of Ajit hurts Nomita's self-respect.

The letter is from her poor widowed mother.

Nomita becomes angry and quarrels with Ajit.

She lights a matchstick and burns her sari.

Ajit jumps to her side and puts out the fire.

He sees a fire burning in her eyes.

Nomita goes down stairs to give the dress to the washerman.

She pretends as if nothing has happened.

The author tells us that women suppress their pain in front of others.

The author depicts the status of traditional women in our society.

## **3.Horegallu**

Horegallu is an anecdote by Sudha Murty.

She speaks of two great personalities- her grandfather and her colleague, Ratna.

Grandfather was a retired school teacher.

He listened to the problems of the villagers.

They talked about their daily lives and worries.

Ratna was a senior clerk.

She was cheerful and smart.

She listened to the problems of her colleagues with sympathy.

Both of them were good listeners.

They listened to the problems of others patiently.

They never replied to them.

They kept the words of the speakers secret.

It refreshed and relaxed the speakers.

The grandfather and Ratna were human horegallus.

#### **4. The Hour of Truth**

The Hour of Truth is a one act play.

The characters in the play are Robert Baldwin, Gresham, Martha, John, Evie and Marshall.

Robert Baldwin is the central character.

Baldwin worked in a bank as a secretary.

He is honest and hard working.

Mr. Gresham was a banker.

He was the boss of Baldwin.

Baldwin worked with Gresham in the bank for many years.

Mr. Gresham was arrested for the financial misappropriation in the bank.

He offers Baldwin a hundred thousand dollars to give evidence in his favour.

Baldwin rejects the bribe offered by Gresham.

His family forces him to accept the bribe.

But Baldwin is honest and he stood for justice.

He was ready to speak against Gresham at the court.

At the end of the play, Gresham confessed his mistakes.

Mr. Marshall, the President of the Third National offers Baldwin a new job.

It was a reward for his honesty and truth.

#### **5. A Three Wheeled Revolution**

A social entrepreneur does business and contributes to the society.

Social entrepreneurship combines social service and business.

Irfan Alam is a social entrepreneur from Bihar.

He had interest in entrepreneurship from his early childhood

He started Sammaan Foundation in 2007 to help the rickshaw pullers.

The Sammaan rickshaws were redesigned to sell advertisements and products.

SammaaN helped the rickshaw pullers to get loans from banks.

Rickshaw pullers got ID cards and uniforms.

SammaaN conducted free evening classes for the family of rickshaw pullers.

They felt proud of themselves and their jobs.

SammaaN made profit and also empowered the lives of rickshaw pullers.

Rickshaws are the vehicles of the future because they are environment friendly.

Irfan advises students to take up entrepreneurship as a career.

## Section II

### **Important Characters :**

#### **1. Nomita**

Nomita is the central character in the story Matchbox.

Nomita is a poor Bengali village woman.

She is the wife of Ajit.

Nomita and Ajit live in a joint family.

Ajit always doubts Nomita.

He reads the letters to Nomita without her permission.

She becomes angry and quarrels with him .

Ajit insults her with harsh words.

She lights a matchstick and burns her sari.

She suppresses her pain in front of others.

She pretends as if nothing has happened.

Nomita is a typical Indian village woman.

#### **2. Ajit**

Ajit is a character in the short story "Matchbox".

He is from a rich and joint family.

Ajit is the husband of Nomita.

He is an unkind person.

He reads the letters addressed to his wife without her permission

He quarrels with Nomita.

He hurts Nomita with harsh words

He represents the male-dominated Indian society.

He is a symbol of pride and defiance.

### **3.Nomita's mother.**

Nomita's mother is a widow.

She is a poor woman.

She had a big dream about her daughter Nomita .

That's why she gets her daughter married to Ajit, a rich man.

She had the habit of begging money from her daughter .

Ajit insulted Nomita for this habit.

This habit of the mother put Nomita's life in trouble.

Nomita's mother was living under a cracked roof.

She was an illiterate ordinary Indian woman.

### **4.Sudha Murty's Grandfather.**

Sudha Murty's grandfather is an important character in 'Horegallu'

He was a retired school teacher.

He was a symbol of goodness and sincerity.

He was a good listener.

He listened to others patiently.

He used to sit under a banyan tree.

The poor villagers shared their problems with him.

They talked about their daily lives and worries.

It refreshed and relaxed them.

He never provided any solutions to their worries.

He never expected reward or fame.

The grandfather was a human horegallu.

## **5.Ratna**

Ratna is an important character in “Horegallu”.

She was a colleague of Sudha Murty.

She was a good listener.

She was always cheerful.

Her colleagues used to share their problems during the lunch break.

She listened to them with sympathy and without judgement.

She never provided any solutions to their problems and worries.

She kept their words secret.

She was humble and simple.

Ratna is a human horegallu like the grandfather.

## **6. Robert Baldwin**

Robert Baldwin is the central character in *The Hour of Truth*

He is a symbol of truth and honesty.

He is sincere to his words and deeds.

He lets nothing to haggle with his conscience.

He is honest and hard working.

Baldwin was working in a bank as a secretary.

Mr. Gresham was his employer.

Baldwin worked with Gresham in the bank for many years.

Mr. Gresham was arrested for the financial misappropriation in the bank.

He offered Baldwin a hundred thousand dollars to give evidence in his favour.

Baldwin rejected the bribe offered by Gresham.

His family forced him to accept the bribe.

But Baldwin stood for justice and honesty

His attitude made the difference.

He was ready to speak against Gresham at the court.

Mr Marshall, the President of the Third National offered him a new job.

It was a reward for his honesty and truth.

## **7. John Gresham Baldwin**

John Gresham Baldwin is the son of Robert Baldwin and Martha

He is 27 years old.

He is very much concerned over his family position in the society.

He earns just 30 dollars a week

In the opening part of the play John suspects his father

John blames his father in the bank collapse.

When his father was offered an amount of bribe he felt tempted to have that.

He forces his father to say 'I don't remember ' in the court

He is a representative of new generation youth moved by changing circumstances

## Section III

### Review of the Poems

#### 1. Any Woman

The poem Any Woman is written by Katherine Tynan.

It celebrates both womanhood and motherhood.

Mother is the pillar and the keystone of a house.

Without a woman a family doesn't have existence .

She is the fire upon the hearth.

She is the light and the heat that warms the earth.

Children thrive in the warmth of her love.

She binds her children with strings of love.

It prevents them from scattering away.

A woman is an all rounder in a family.

Her careful touch reaches everywhere and everything in the house.

They are the walls that protect the house from all dangers.

She prays to God not to take her away till her children grow.

The poem reinforces the unconditional love of a mother.

The poet uses metaphors throughout the poem.

They make the theme of the poem effective.

## 2. Rice

*Rice* is a poem written by Chemmanam Chacko.

It is a satire on changing attitude of the Kerala farmers.

The poem has two parts.

The first part of the poem abounds with nostalgic sentiments.

The poet returns home from his distant workplace after a long gap.

He dreams of having a meal of 'athikira' rice.

He expects a paddy cultivation based reception.

He notices a sea change in the people of his village when he reaches there.

He finds a wide gap between expectation and reality.

He gets shocked to see the changes.

Paddy cultivation has given way to rubber plantation.

Farmers have turned to cash crops like rubber, arecanut, etc.

The whole village has changed.

The members of his family have become the part of the new culture.

Farmers have stopped rice farming as they easily get rations from the government.

He concludes the poem with a sharp tone of irony and satire.

He doubts whether he can get husk from the Centre to make toys with it.

## Section IV

### **Important Themes:**

Dears,

The units of our course book are based on certain themes. So we need to focus the important themes. You have to present your thoughts related to the themes in your write-ups and discourses. Let's analyse the important themes related to the 'focus area.'

#### **1.Women Empowerment**

Women empowerment is the need of the hour.

It is very important.

It is a must for the empowerment of the entire society.

Christine Lagarde speaks of the 3 Ls of women empowerment.

They are learning,labour and leadership.

Education is very important.

It is the foundation of all changes.

It gives women special status in society.

An educated woman can never be written off.

Still many women are denied higher education.

We should provide higher education to women.

It is our duty.

Every girl should be given proper education.

The government should make timely intervention in this regard.

Every woman should have a job.

It is a must in the modern world.

A job provides safety and security to a woman.

It gives them a special status in society.

Moreover, It helps to increase the per capita income of a nation.

There are good women leaders in the world.

Women leaders can make good decisions.

They can also showcase their skills and talents.

We are doing a lot towards women empowerment.

Still we have miles to go.

## **2. Challenges Faced by Women in the Modern World**

Women face many challenges in the modern world.

They contribute less to the total economic growth of the world.

It is not their fault.

They are ready to contribute.

But, they are not given equal opportunities.

It is a serious issue.

As a consequence, many countries lag behind in per capita income.

Women are denied freedom and higher education.

Women education is a must for the maximum exploration of the human resources.

Women face many problems in their workplace.

They don't get equal pay for equal work.

They have low status and low security.

We should change this picture.

It is our duty.

Atrocities against women are increasing day by day.

Stern steps should be taken against the problems.

Let's work hard for a better society.

### **3.Role of Education in Women Empowerment**

Education plays an important role in women empowerment.

It empowers women in modern society.

It is the foundation of all changes.

It gives women a special status in society.

An educated woman can never be written off.

Still many women are denied higher education.

We should provide higher education to women.

It is our duty.

Every girl should be given proper education.

The government should be very vigilant in this regard.

### **3.Importance of Mother**

“God couldn't be present everywhere, so He created mothers”.

The words of Tagore underlines the importance of mothers.

Mother is the first friend, first teacher and the first guide of her children.

She is the thread that connects all the members of a family.

She is a symbol of love and sacrifice. Mother is a pillar of a family.

She is a great listener and encourages the children to do their best .

She inspires the children to become bold and confident.

She is the lovely shadow of God who protects her children from all the dangers.

So let's treat our mothers with care and affection.

#### **4. Space of Indian woman in modern society.**

Women play an important role in the society.

Indian women are devoted to their families.

Women have proved their potential in every sphere of life.

Women have started to step out of their comfort zones.

They manage their roles both at home and at work place.

Many of the women in our society are the breadwinners.

They are instrumental in nation building.

The status of women in society is slowly changing in recent years

Unfortunately , some women are still being exploited and humiliated in modern Indian society.

They are denied equal opportunities in many walks of life.

It is our duty to protect women.

Let's strive for a better society.

#### **5. Honesty is the best Policy.**

Honesty is the best policy.

It is important both in personal and public life.

It makes a person sincere and truthful.

An honest person will be sincere to his words and deeds.

There are many honest leaders in the world.

Gandhiji was one of them.

He held up the principles of truth and honesty.

That made the difference.

An honest person will be respected all over the world.

Honesty is so important that it should be a policy.

Robert Baldwin ,the character in *The Hour of Truth* ,was a symbol of honesty.

## **6.Corruption in Indian Society**

Corruption is a threat to the development of our nation.

It spoils the true spirits of Indian democracy.

People lose their trust in democracy.

Corruption is the curse of our society.

It adversely affects the economic growth of a nation.

It is a criminal activity.

Crores were looted from the public fund by the leaders of different parties.

Poor people are the victims of corruption.

It prevents the development of a country.

Strict punishment should be given to save our country from corruption.

Strict laws should be enacted to punish those who accept bribes.

We should fight against it.

It is the duty of every responsible citizen.

## **4. Importance of being good listeners/The theme of human horegallu**

We should be good listeners.

We should listen to the problems of others patiently.

We should do it with sympathy and without judgement.

It helps to refresh and relax others.

There are many people in society who are not heard and cared.

They want to ease their burdens by sharing them with others.

We should keep their words secret.

Being a good listener is a good quality.

It is a sort of social service.

We should be human horegallus like Ratna and the grandfather

### **5. Social Entrepreneur.**

A social entrepreneur does business and contributes to the society.

Social Entrepreneurship combines social service and business.

Social entrepreneurs can help certain sections of the society.

They can provide service to the society.

But at the same time there will be some profit involved.

Social entrepreneurs become the change makers of the society.

They find solutions to the social, cultural and environmental problems.

They use a variety of resources for this.

They change the society for a better tomorrow.

Irfan Alam and Shaheen Mistri are social entrepreneurs.

## Section V

### IMPORTANT DISCOURSES/ITEMS

Dears,

Here some important discourses are discussed. A few common expressions are given before the discourses. Hope they will help you to attend the questions with confidence. The themes discussed in the previous sections will assist you to fill the content part of the discourses.

1.

Essay/article/paragraphs/write-up/  
Expressing one's opinion, etc.

**Common Expressions:**

**It is very important.**

**It is the need of the hour.**

**It is a must in the modern world.**

**There are many challenges.**

**It plays an important role.**

**It is a serious issue.**

**There are many pros and cons.**

**Government should be very vigilant .**

**Stern steps should be taken in this regard**

**Let's work hard for a better society.**

**We are doing a lot in this regard.**

**Still we have miles to go.**

**Question:**

**1.Your school plans to publish a magazine and you contribute an article on 'Women Empowerment : The Need of the Hour' to the magazine. Write the article.**

**Model Answer.**

Women empowerment is the need of the hour. It is very important. It is a must for the empowerment of the entire society. Christine Lagarde speaks of the 3 Ls of women empowerment. They are learning,labour and leadership. Education is very important. It is the foundation of all changes. It gives women special status in society. An educated woman can never be written off. Still many women are denied higher education. We should provide higher education to women. It is our duty. Every girl should be given proper education. The government should make timely intervention in this regard. Every woman should have a job. It is a must in the modern world. A job provides safety and security to a woman. It gives them a special status in society. Moreover, it helps to increase the per capita income of a nation. There are good women leaders in the world. Women leaders can make good decisions. They

can also showcase their skills and talents. We are doing a lot towards women empowerment. Still we have miles to go.

**Question: 2**

Prepare an essay on *Challenges faced by women in the modern world.*

**Question. 3**

Prepare a write-up on *importance of being a good listener in the modern world.*

**Question. 4**

New India looks for start-ups and social novel ventures that elevate the marginalised sections in the society. Do you think that social entrepreneurship is the need of the hour? Express your views in an essay.

2.



**Common Expressions:**

**(Many expressions given above for essays could be used here too)**

**Good morning,**

**Dear friends,**

**I am very happy to be here on this occasion.**

**I would like to speak on the topic.....**

**It is very important.**

**It is the need of the hour.**

**I would like to conclude my words.**

**Thank you.**

### **Question.1**

You are invited to deliver a speech on the occasion of celebrating World Women's Day in the school assembly. Prepare the script of the speech on the topic '*Challenges Faced by Women in the Modern Society.*'

#### **Model Answer:**

Good morning,

Dear friends,

I would like to speak on **challenges faced by women in the modern society'**.

Women face many challenges in the modern world. They contribute less to the total economic growth of the world. It is not their fault. They are ready to contribute. But, they are not given equal opportunities. It is a serious issue.

As a consequence, many countries lag behind in per capita income. Women are denied freedom and higher education. Women education is a must for the maximum utilisation of the human resources. Women face many problems in their workplace. They don't get equal payment for equal work. They have low status and low security. We should change this picture. It is our duty. Atrocities against women are increasing day by day. Stern steps should be taken against the problems. Let's work hard for a better society. I would like to conclude my words.

Thank you.

### **Question.2**

Prepare a script of the speech on *Role of Education in empowering women.*

### Question.3

You are to deliver a speech in your school assembly on *Truth and honesty in public life*.  
Prepare the script of the speech

3.

#### Poem Review and Comparison

Common Expressions:

The Poem is written by .....

The theme of the poem is.....

Here the poet uses many poetic devices.

They make the poem very effective.

The poem can be analysed from different angles.

The poem is meaningful and interesting.

The theme of the poem has special social relevance.

Both poems share many things in common.

The first poem discusses.....whereas the second poem analyses .....

The poets use many poetic devices to make the poems very effective.

Both poems are interesting and meaningful.

The poems can be viewed from different angles.

We can also see many contrasts.

Both poets discuss socially relevant issues.

### Question .1

Read the poem given below:

#### WOMAN WORK

-Maya Angelou

I have got the children to tend

The clothes to mend

The floor to mop

The food to shop

Then the kitchen to fry

The baby to dry

I got company to feed

The garden to weed

I have got shirts to press

The tots to dress

The canes to be cut

I gotta clean up this hut

Then see about the sick

And the cotton to pick.

**Now prepare a review of the poem and compare it with *Any Woman* by Katharine Tynan.**

#### **Model Answer:**

The poem *Woman Work* is written by Maya Angelou. The theme of the poem is the different roles of women in society. She is engaged in the different activities at home. The poet uses many poetic

devices. They make the poem very effective. She has to work hard from dawn to dusk. She has to care her children and clean her house. She is fully engaged in the kitchen.

The poem 'Any Woman' by Katharine Tynan discusses the importance of women at home and in society. A woman plays an important role to make the house alive. The poet uses many metaphors to make her points very effective. A woman has been compared to pillar and arch of the house. She has been called the light of the good sun. Children can't grow well without her guidance. She is the force which unites all children within the sacred ring of love. She protects her children from all dangers. The poem concludes with her request to God 'Take me not till the children grow'.

Both poems share many things in common. They deal with almost same theme. The theme of the poems underlines the importance of women in society. Both poems tell us that the women play significant roles to keep the house always shining. Her unconditional love towards her children is focused in both poems. The poets use many poetic devices to make the poems very effective. The poet Tynan uses a lot of metaphors to make her ideas very effective. Both poets give poetic frame work for the importance of women in the domestic circles. We can also see many contrasts. The poems can be viewed from different angles. The poets discuss a relevant theme.

## Question.2

Prepare a review of the poem *Paddy Fields* and compare it with *Rice* by Chemmanam Chacko.

### **Paddy Fields**

**-Prathipa Nair**

Walked through the paddy fields

Following a brown dragonfly

Standing scarecrows made of hay in old clothes and a hat

Row of women working in the fields

White herons feeding from the shallow water  
Looks like white pearls on a green necklace  
Children chasing a calf with a loud cry  
Folk songs of farming from the village are heard far away  
Some fields getting ready for the cultivation  
Men ploughing fields with white oxen  
An old man guiding a flock of quacking ducks to their way  
Waiting for them to cross the lane like nursery kids  
Running with a bunch of paddy in my hands  
With a pleasant smile of the dragonfly following me !

4.

Announcement

#### **Common Expressions (Before staging a skit /play)**

**Good evening,**

**Dear friends,**

**Here is a special announcement.**

**We are going to stage a special event.**

**Yes, it is a skit/play**

**It has a good message.**

**The characters are.....**

**Sure, it will capture your heart and mind**

**Watch and enjoy.**

**Thank you**

### Question.1

Your class is going to present a skit based on the play 'The Hour of Truth'. Prepare an announcement prior to its enactment/staging

Good evening ,

Dear ladies and Gentlemen,

Warm welcome to you all.

Let's enjoy this evening watching a beautiful skit. It is based on the play *The Hour of Truth* by Percival Wilde. Yes! a skit with a good message. It deals with the corrupting influence of money on people. The script is written by Kumari Ramya and is directed by Master Ajay. Jibin, Roshan, Neethu, Rana, Gopan and Sayan are the actors . Sure, the skit will capture your heart and mind.

Watch and Enjoy.

Thank you.

### Question.2

The Social Science Club of your school arranges a special programme on Teachers' Day. Sudha Murty, the prolific writer in Kannada and English reaches your school to inaugurate the Teachers Day celebration.

Prepare a script of the announcement introducing the guest to the audience.

5.

Interview

What inspired you to become a .....

Who is your role model?

Can you share any special experience in your life?  
Do you think you have fulfilled your dreams in life?  
What is your message to students?

**Question:**

**1) You got a chance to interview Irfan Alam when he visits your school. Prepare five questions for the interview.**

**Model Answer:**

- Qn.1) What inspired you to become a social entrepreneur?  
Qn.2) Who is your role model?  
Qn.3) Can you share any special experience in your life?  
Qn.4) Do you think you have fulfilled your dreams in life?  
Qn.5) What is your message to students?

**Question.2**

Imagine that Ratna is invited to your school and you have got a chance to interview her. Prepare five questions for the interview.

**Question.3**

Imagine that a famous woman activist is invited to your school. You have got a chance to interview her. Prepare five questions for the interview.

**6. | Email**

**Common Expressions:**

**I am sending this email to invite you to our school.**

**I am sending this email to congratulate you.**

**I am sending this email to appreciate you.**

**You do a very nice job.**

**You have a positive attitude to life.**

**You are a very kind person.**

**People will remember you for your good deeds.**

**I wish there were more people like you.**

**Keep up your good qualities**

**You are a role model for others.**

**1)After reading the play *The Hour of Truth*, you are happy to know that truth wins in the end. Suppose you send an email to Robert Baldwin appreciating him for his honesty. Draft the email.**

Send To:robertbaldwin2021@ gmail.com

Cc:

Bcc:

Sub: Appreciation

Sir,

I am sending this email to appreciate you.

You are a very honest person. People will remember you for your right actions. You move on the path of righteousness and truth .Congratulations Sir. Keep up your good qualities. You are a role model for others.

Sincerely

Binod. O

[binod2021@gmail.com](mailto:binod2021@gmail.com)

### **Question.2**

Draft an email inviting Irfan Alam to your school.

### **Question.3**

Send an email to Ratna congratulating her for her good work

7 .

## Letter Seeking Permission

**Common Expressions:**

**We are 15 students and 5 teachers from ABC School .**

**We would like to visit.....**

**We would like to know more about.....**

**It is a part of our project.**

**It will benefit us so much.**

**Please give us permission.**

**Question:**

**1)The Nature Club of your school decides to visit Agricultural University at Vellayani.**

**Draft a letter to the director seeking permission to visit the place.**

**Model Answer:**

The Secretary  
Nature Club  
ABC School  
Chennai.

18 th Jan 2021.

The Director  
Agricultural Research Dept  
Vellayani.

Sir,

---

**Vijayabheri** Malappuram District Panchayat

Sub: Request for Permission

We are 15 students and 5 teachers from ABC School. We would like to visit your Office. We also wish to know more about food crop cultivation. It is a part of our project. It will benefit us so much. Please give us permission.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

Binod.O

### Question.2

2)The Entrepreneurship Development Club of your school decides to visit SammaanN Foundation in Patna. Draft a letter to Irfan Alam seeking permission to visit the place.

8.

Report of a Programme.

### Common Expressions:

The programme began with a prayer by the school choir.

.....welcomed the audience.

.....chaired the programme and gave the presidential address.

The programme was inaugurated by.....

He/ she delivered the keynote address .

Felicitation was offered by.....

Papers were presented on various topics.

It was followed by a discussion.

Vote of thanks was proposed by.....

### Question.1

The Nature Club of your school conducted a seminar on *Diversity of food crops*. Given below is the programme notice. Prepare a report.

ABC School Nature Club

**Seminar on *Diversity of Food Crops***

Venue: School Auditorium      Date: 17/01/2021

Time: 9:30 am

**Programme:**

Prayer: School Choir

Welcome Speech: Mr Xavier , Principal

Presidential Address: Mr Madhu.N, PTA President

Inaugural Address: Dr Vasu, Research Scientist

Felicitation: Mrs Leela, Panchayath Member

Paper Presentation: 1) Master Vinay, Plus Two student- “ Bringing Food Crops Back” 2)Miss Rithika, Plus two student- “Nutritional Content in Food Crops”

Discussion

Vote of Thanks: Master Nidhin Thomas, School Leader

National Anthem: School Choir

**Model Answer**

**Seminar Conducted**

The Nature Club of ABC School conducted a seminar on the topic Diversity of Food Crops on 17 th January 2021 in the school auditorium. The programme began at 9:30 am with a prayer by the school choir .The Principal, Mr Xavier welcomed the audience. The PTA President Mr Madhu N chaired the programme and gave the Presidential address. The seminar was inaugurated by the famous Research Scientist Dr Vasu and he delivered the keynote address .Felicitation was offered by Panchayath Member Mrs Leela. The papers were presented by Master Vinay and Miss Rithika on various topics. It was followed by a discussion. Vote of thanks was proposed by the school leader Master Nidhin Thomas. The programme ended with the National Anthem .

**Question.2**

A 'Female Films' festival was conducted in your school to focus on Women Empowerment. Read the programme notice given below and prepare a report of the film festival.

ABC School

'Female Films' Festival

Venue: School Auditorium

Date: 18/01/2021

Time: 9:30 am

**Programme:**

Prayer: School Choir

Welcome Speech: Smt Sujata, Principal

Presidential Address: Smt Devi .N, PTA President

Inaugural Address: Vidhu Vincent Director

Felicitation: Sri M Raju, Panchayath Member

Vote of Thanks: Smt Sreekala N, Staff Secretary

Film show:

10:30 am: Udaharanam Sujatha

1 pm: English Vinglish

4 pm: Chakk De! India

National Anthem: School Choir

9.

Debate Points (For/Against)

**Common Expressions:**

**I agree with it.**

**It is right.**

**Sorry, I can't agree with it.**

**It is wrong.**

**It is good.**

**There are many merits and demerits.**

**It can be viewed from different angles.**

**There is no sense in the argument.**

### **Question.1**

Imagine that you are participating in a debate on the topic 'Empowerment of a woman begins at home.' Write three points to justify your arguments.

#### **Model Answer:**

I agree with it.

- a) Empowerment of woman begins at home.
- b) Women should get freedom at home.
- c) Women do many things at home.

### **Question.2**

1. "Corruption should be dealt with severe punishment. The culprits should be hanged to death"

Do you agree with the opinion? Write **four** points **for or against** the opinion.

**10.**

## **Job Application & Resume**

### **Question.1**

1. You happened to see an advertisement in the Indian Express daily seeking qualified hands for the post of Accountant in a reputed firm. You wish to apply for the job. Prepare an application with a resume.

#### **Model Answer:**

From

Kumar

Snow line Street

New Delhi.

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

To

The Manager

ABC Private Limited

Chennai.

Sub: Application for the post of accountant

Dear Sir,

In response to your advertisement, I would like to apply for the post of accountant in your company. I have completed my graduation in commerce with 80% mark. I have also completed Diploma in Computer Applicatio . I have been working as a clerk in a private company for the last three years.

If I am selected, I will work hard for the growth of your company. My resume is enclosed herewith. I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest.

Yours truly,

Sd/

Kumar.

New Delhi

## Resume

Name: : Kumar.S  
Age : 25  
Present address : Kumar. S. Snow line street , Rose Marg, New Delhi.  
Objectives : To become an expert accountant.  
Educational Qualification: M.com, Diploma in computer application  
Phone number : 8270076452  
Email : Kumars@ gmail.com  
Experience : Three years experience as an accountant in a private firm  
(Experience certificate enclosed)  
Skills : Computerised accounting, software programmer  
Languages Known : Malayalam, English, Hindi  
Interests : Cricket, Reading, Swimming

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the details given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature.

Name.

### Question.2

Read the following advertisement:

**Let's Empower our Nation**

**Sammaan Foundation**

2/30 SBI Colony

Khezpara

Baily Road- Patna

**Wanted**

**Accountants**

Apply within 10 days

Qualification : Any graduation

Send your application with latest the Resume to the chairman, Sammaan Foundation

You wish to apply for the job. Prepare an application letter and a resume, to be attached with the application.

11.

Blurb

**Common Expressions:**

**It is written by.....**

**The theme is thought provoking.**

**The language used here is powerful.**

**It is a must read.**

**The characters are interesting and inspiring**

**It is the masterpiece of the author.**

**Question: 1**

You translate the stories by Ashapura Debi to English and Oxford University Press publishes the book under the title 'Matchbox and other Stories by Ashapura Debi'. Prepare a blurb for the book.

**'Matchbox and other Stories by Ashapura Debi'**

*'Matchbox and other Stories by Ashapura Debi'* is a collection of short stories. They are originally written in Bengali. They are translated to English by Mr. Sonu Begam, a famous Indian writer. The themes of the stories are thought provoking. They point to the problems faced by women in our male dominated society. The language used here is powerful. It is a must read among short stories. The characters are interesting and inspiring.

## Question.2

1. You are much inspired by the life of Irfan Alam and you learn more about the famous social entrepreneurs in India. As a result you publish a book '*Social Entrepreneurs in India*'. Prepare a blurb for the book.

12.

Blog Writing

### Common Expressions:

I would like to share my thoughts/reading experience here.

I read the lesson/Poem.

I watched the film .....

It has a good theme.

It is thought provoking.

It impressed me/ It shocked me.

I have no words to express my feelings.

This is a must watch/read.

### Question.1

The poem *Rice* really impressed you. You would like to share your reading experience through a blog .Prepare the blog

### Model Answer:

### Rice by Chemmanam Chacko.

January 21, 2021/ Lalu

I read the poem **Rice** by Prof. Chemmanam Chacko. It impressed me. Here I would like to share my reading experience. It has a good theme. Kerala had a rich paddy-oriented culture. Now we have moved from food crops to cash crops. We can see a sea change in our attitude towards our traditions and culture. The poem depicts the changing culture of farmers in Kerala. The theme of the poem is really thought provoking. It is a good satire.

This is a must read.

#### Question.2

You watched a new movie and that captured your heart and mind. You would like to publish your thoughts on the blog. Prepare the blog entry.

13.

Profile

#### Common Expressions:

..... was born at Porbandar in Gujarat on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in 1869.

He/She was /is a great.....(player, writer,leader,etc.)

The entire world honoured him/her

He/ She was/is lucky to have loving parents

He/she has/had an eventful childhood

He/she completed his /education at.....

He/she wrote many books.

He/she got many awards.

He/she was/is a man with vision and passion.

## Question.1

Read the hints given below and write a profile of Sudha Murty, a prolific writer in English and Kannada.

**Birth:** 19 August, 1950-Shiggaon ,North Karnataka.

**Parents:** **Father**-Dr.R H Kulkarni, **mother**-Vimala Kulkarni

**Spouse:** Narayana Murty, the founder of Infosys Foundation

**Children:** Rohan Murty , Akshata Murty

**Education:** BVB College of Engineering and Technology, Indian Institute of science

**Fame:** Writer, teacher, social worker, Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation

**Literary contribution:** novels, travelogues, short stories, anecdotes, *The Old Man and His God: Discovering the Spirit of India* in 2006, (collections),published by Penguin Books ,New Delhi

**Awards:** Best Teacher Award in 1995, Padma Shri

### Model Answer:

## Sudha Murty

Sudha Murty, a prolific writer in English and Kannada was born at Shiggaon in North Karnataka on 19 August 1950. She was lucky to have loving parents-Dr.Kulkarni ,her father and Vimala Kulkarni , her mother. She was married to Narayana Murty, the founder of Infosys Foundation. She was blessed with the children Rohan Murty and Akshakta Murty. She completed her higher education at Indian Institute of Science and BVB College of Engineering and Technology. She is popular as a writer , teacher, social worker and the Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She wrote many books, novels, travelogues, short stories and anecdotes. She authored *The Old Man and His God: Discovering the Spirit of India* .It was published by Penguin Books , New Delhi in 2006. She got many awards. She was given the Best Teacher Award in 1995 .She was also honoured with the Padma Shri. She was a lady with vision and passion.

## Question.2

Prepare a profile of Shaheen Mistri using the hints given below:

<b>Birth:</b>	16th March, 1971
<b>Place of birth:</b>	Mumbai
<b>Academic Qualifications:</b>	B.A. degree (Sociology), M.A. in Sociology
<b>Alma mater:</b>	University of Mumbai, University of Manchester
<b>Occupation:</b>	CEO, Teach for India
<b>Famous as:</b>	Indian Social Activist and educator
<b>Founder:</b>	Akanksha Foundation, Teach for India
<b>Awards won:</b>	Ashoka Fellow (2001) Global Leader for Tomorrow (2002) Asia Society 21 Leader (2006)
<b>Authored:</b>	Redrawing India – The Teach for India Story (2014)

## Section VI

### Question Pool

#### Essay Type Questions (6 to 8 scores)

1. In the light of reading *A Three Wheeled Revolution*, you arrive at the conclusion that 'Social entrepreneurs are the backbones of our nation and our nation benefits from such enterprises. Write an essay on the topic *'The necessity of promoting entrepreneurship among the youth'*
2. *"If we dare the difference, the difference will deliver"*, Christine Lagarde concludes her speech with the remark. Prepare an article to be published in the school magazine on the topic *'Challenges faced by women in the modern world'*
3. On the occasion of observing International Women's Day' you are given a chance to speak on 'Women Empowerment' in an International Women Conference. Prepare the script of the speech. You may include the points from the speech 3Ls of Empowerment in your speech.

4. 'Some of us love India with mere words while some others like Irfan Alam do the same through challenging deeds'. Our India needs such social entrepreneurs standardizing the marginalized layers of our society. Write an essay analysing the scope of social entrepreneurship in shaping a modern developed India.
5. Identify the requisites of women empowerment. What is the role of education in empowering women? Express your views in an essay.
6. Atrocities against women and girls are increasing day by day though we have dozens of organizations for protecting them. English Club of your school organizes a panel discussions on 'Women Empowerment for the Empowerment of Nation'. What would you present on the occasion? Prepare the script of your presentation.
7. You are told to present a seminar paper on 'Entrepreneurship for social upliftment' to be presented in the National Entrepreneurship Summit. You may include the details of the entrepreneurs who influenced you. Prepare the script of the seminar paper.
8. "When a person in trouble or under a lot of stress finds an outlet for his worries, it relieves half his burden", says Ratna in *Horegallu*. How did Ratna relieve the burden of her colleagues? Have you done such kind of help to your friends? Write your answer in about 80 words.
9. Read the poem carefully and compare the poem with 'Any Woman.'

### **The Heart of a Woman**

The heart of a woman goes forth with the dawn  
As a lone bird, soft winging, so restlessly on  
A far o'er life's turrets and vales does it roam  
In the wake of those echoes the heart calls home.  
The heart of a woman falls back with the night,  
And enters some alien cage in its plight,  
And tries to forget it has dreamed of the stars  
While it breaks, breaks, breaks on the sheltering bars.

**Georgia Douglas Johnson**

10. Read the following advertisement put forward by the Research and Development wing of Sammaan to recruit Junior Assistant. Draft an application letter and a resume.

**VACANCY: Junior Assistant**

SammaaN Foundation, P.B. No. : 395. Bihar

Qualification : Graduation in any discipline

Age : Between 20 and 30

The ideal candidate should :

- \* Possess good communication skills.
- \* Be well groomed, friendly and energetic.

Previous experience will be an added advantage

Interested candidates, please submit your application and bio-data within ten days.

**11.** Imagine Literary Club of your school has decided to visit the poet Chemmanam Chacko and interview him. What would you ask him? Frame 6 relevant questions for the interview.

**12. Read the programme notice given below and prepare a seminar report.**

**ABC School**

**Social Science Club**

**Seminar on *Corruption versus Development***

Venue: School Auditorium

Date: 16/01/2021

Time: 9:30 am

Programme

Prayer: School Choir

Welcome Speech: Mrs Jasmine, Social Science Club Co Ordinator

Presidential Address : Mr Chandran, Principal

Inaugural Address: Dr Rema, Social activist

Felicitation: Mr Rasheed, PTA President

Paper Presentation: 1) Master Sanoop , Plus Two student- "Corruption Spoils the Nation"

2) Miss Salma, Plus two student- "Importance of Gandhian Principles in building a corruption free India"

## Discussion

Vote of Thanks: Master Tarun, School Leader

National Anthem: School Choir

**13.** The English Club of your school conducts a panel discussion on the topic “Indian women-finding a space in the socio-cultural milieu.” You present your views on the topic. What would you say in the panel discussion? Prepare the script for the presentation.

**14.** There are many people who are not heard and cared for in our society. They find it very difficult to find the people like the grandfather of Sudha Murty and Ratna. Analyse the ‘tremendous social service ‘done by the grandfather and Ratna.

Do you think such people are need of the hour? Express your views in a write-up.

**15.** You present your thoughts on the topic ‘Corruption curtails the development of a country’ participating in a Group Discussion. Prepare the script of your presentation.

**16.** ‘Society is changing fast. Farmers are also the integral part of the society’. Chemmanam Chacko satirises the changing culture of Kerala people, especially of farmers. How does the poet depict the changes in the attitude of the farmers in the poem *Rice*? Write your answer in about 80 words.

### **Paragraph Answer Questions (3 to 5 scores).**

**17.** The poem *Rice* is a contrast between expectations and reality. Prepare a write-up substantiating this view.

**18.** *My father says, with obvious pride:  
Son, we’ve stopped working on all the rice  
It was quite inconvenient’*

*How does the poet satirise the shift from paddy cultivation to rubber plantations? Write your answer in four sentences.*

**19.** *Can we get some husk from the Centre, too,  
To make toys with it? I don’t know*

Comment on the concluding stanza of the poem *Rice*.

20. *I am their wall against all danger,  
Their door against the wind and snow,  
Thou whom a woman laid in a manger,  
Take me not till the children grow*

Explain the concluding stanza of the poem *Any Woman* in your own words.

21. *Without me cold the hearthstone stands  
Nor could the precious children thrive.*

How does Katherine Tynan portray the bond between a mother and her children in the poem *Any Woman*? Write your answer in a paragraph.

22. *I am the pillars of the house;  
The key stone of the arch am I.*

Comment on the opening lines of the poem with a special focus on the poetic devices used in the poem.

23. 'A mother is a lovely shadow of God on earth'. Do you agree with it? What kind of emotional bond do you have with your mother? Prepare a write-up on 'My mother, my world'

24. *The oxen will stop when they see me  
Walking with my suitcase, and my father,  
Without smiling the smile slowly forming on his lips,  
Will call from the field: 'And when did you start from there?'*

What could the poet see when he reached home? Did his father call him from the field? What was his response? Write your answer in a paragraph.

25. 'Only fools turn to rice-farming for gain' Why does the father of the poet say so? Do you think that the rice-farming has become a profitable venture now? Write a paragraph.

26. You have dreams of setting up a business of your own after studies. You are greatly inspired by Irfan Alam's views and ideas. Draft a letter of enquiry to Sammaan Foundation asking for

clarification of the doubts regarding financial investment of the organization, mode of operation, security of the members, etc.

**27.** A horegallu is essential in any journey. It is more so when people around us are too busy in their own world. You feel that it is necessary to post counsellors in schools so that students can reveal their fears and joy to them. Write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting him to take necessary steps in this regard.

**28.** Robert Baldwin in 'The Hour of Truth' stands as an epitome of honesty throughout the play. His decisions are never influenced by any financial offers. Prepare a character sketch of Robert Baldwin.

**29.** Do you agree with Irfan Alam that "It is important to dream but it is equally important to take calculated risks to achieve your dream"? Express your own opinion in a paragraph of 80 words.

**30.** Attempt a character sketch of Nomita, in about 80 words.

**31.** "God has given me two ears to listen to others. I hear them out with sympathy and without any judgement."

Sketch the character of Ratna in a paragraph.

**32.** The English Club of your school has decided to visit the famous writer and the social activist Arundhati Roy and interview her. What would you ask her? Frame 6 relevant questions for the interview.

**33.** Barack Obama, the former president of America complimented Irfan Alam with the words "You are doing a tougher job than me". Don't you think that he has been doing a tougher job that deserves a standing ovation? Write your views in a paragraph.

**34.** It has been decided to stage the *The Hour of Truth* on the occasion of your School Fest. You are told to introduce the play to the audience. Prepare the script for compering, including the relevant details like theme, cast and credit etc.

**35.** 'I personally think rickshaws are the vehicles of the future'

Do you agree with the opinion of Irfan Alam? Write your answer in a paragraph.

**36.** The anecdote *Horegallu* is a touching one .You are much impressed by the theme of ‘the human horegallus’ .You want to share your appreciation of the anecdote with your friend in Singapore. Draft an email conveying the essence of the anecdote so as to inspire your friend to read it at the earliest.

**37.** As a part of an assignment, you collect the stories and poems related to the theme of paddy cultivation. You publish your collection as ‘Poems and Stories of Paddy Cultivation’. Prepare a blurb for the book.

**38.** You are much impressed by the way Christine Lagarde presents her thoughts on women empowerment. Prepare a blog recording your impressions on the speech ‘*The 3 Ls of Empowerment*’.

**39.** Edit the following extract from the anecdote Horegallu. There are four errors:

An horegallu on our village hold special memories for me as it is inextricably linked by my grandfather.

**40.** Pick out any three adjectives from the sentence given below:

It was a large flat stone placed horizontally over two vertical ones, thus making a stone bench on which anyone could sit and rest a while, chatting with fellow travelers and exchange the news of the road.

### **Short Answer Questions ( 1 or 2 scores)**

**41.** Imagine you are the close friend of Ajit and you came to know about the quarrel between Nomita and Ajit over the letter issue. Give two pieces of advice to Ajit.

**42.** ‘It is true that women sometimes lack the confidence to match their competence’. Do you agree with Christine Lagarde.? How can we build self-confidence in women? Write your answer in two or three sentences

**43.** ‘I am the fire upon the hearth,’ What is the poetic device used by Katherine Tynan in the line?

**44.** ‘Thou whom a woman laid in manger’

What does the word ‘Thou’ mean and who does it refer to in the poem *Any Woman?*

45. 'Stop it! What a common , vulgar man you are.' Identify the speaker.

46. 'Her words uncannily echoed my grandfather's, sitting on the stone bench under the banyan tree.' Pick out the word that means 'mysteriously' in the sentence.

47. 'Those three words would choke me if I tried to speak them. For some other man , perhaps ,it would be easy. But for me?' Who is the speaker? What traits of the character of the speaker does it reveal? Write your answer in two sentences.

48. What is the symbolic significance of the 'wind and snow' in the poem Any Woman? Write two or three sentences.

49. Why does Ashapura Debi compare women to matchboxes?

50. *Above us 'a ship of the sky' roars northwards,*

*Drowning my brother's loud cries.'*

What is the figure of speech used by the poet in 'a ship of the sky?'