

Part-I

ENGLISH

Maximum : 80 Scores

General Instructions to Candidates :

- There is a 'cool-off time' of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time of 2½ hrs.
- You are not allowed to write your answers nor to discuss anything with others during the 'cool-off time'.
- Read questions carefully before answering.
- All questions are compulsory and only internal choice is allowed.
- When you select a question, all the sub-questions must be answered from the same question itself.
- Electronic devices except non-programmable calculators are not allowed in the Examination Hall.

(Question Nos. 1 – 3) : Read the passage and answer the questions :

“Yes”, he said. “Yes” and shipped his oars without bumping the boat. He reached out for the line and held it softly between the thumb and forefinger of his right hand. He felt no strain nor weight and he held the line lightly. Then it came again. This time it was a tentative pull, not solid nor heavy, and he knew exactly what it was.

1. What is 'he' engaged in ? (Score : 1)
2. What is the 'line' referred to in the passage ? (Score : 1)
3. What does the word 'tentative' mean here ?
(i) Strong
(ii) Weak
(iii) Final (Score : 1)

4. After reading Christine Lagarde's speech, a social worker is speaking to the people of your locality about the need for educating women. Fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate adjectives/adjectival clauses :

Education helps women to be _____ (seriously/financially/sustainably) independent and to break the shackles of exclusion. Women who _____ (look good/look after children/study) actually help themselves and their community. If learning is the first step, labour is the second. Women who _____ (procure labour / suffer discrimination / challenge the social norms) are able to flourish and achieve their true potential. They contribute to the development and well-being of the community. So it is _____ (clear / essential / favourable) that women equip themselves with education. (Scores : 4)

(Question Nos. 5 & 6) Answer the questions after reading the passage from the play "The Hour of Truth".

"I've got only a few years to live but I'll live those as I've lived the rest of my life. I'll go to my grave clean."

5. Who speaks these words ? (Score : 1)
6. Why does he say so ? (Scores : 2)
7. Irfan Alam comes to your school to inaugurate the Youth Club. Prepare a script for announcement introducing him (Young Entrepreneur – founder and chairman of Sammaan Foundation – recognized as one of the top thirty Youth Icons of India by the Times of India). (Scores : 4)
- 8./ Edit the passage correcting the mistakes :
Excitement over what drugs can do have led people to believe that any ailments, infective or psychic, can be relieved by taking a pill. Medical journals now advertises tranquilizers, amphetamines and other mood-altering drugs; doctors prescribe them, and the public expect miracles from them. (Scores : 4)
9. After reading Sudha Murty's "Horegallu", you realize that it would be worth setting up horegallus on the pavements to help citizens to take a break and ease themselves. Write a letter to the Mayor of your city putting forth the suggestion and explaining the reasons. (Scores : 5)
10. You are a friend of the Amigo brothers and you witnessed the contest between them with great excitement. Prepare a blog entry describing the contest. (Scores : 5)
11. "Each time we stammer
we are offering a sacrifice
to the God of meanings".
Why does the poet think so ? (Scores : 2)

12. "O train, will you run a little faster-
let me get home quickly and eat my fill".
What does the poet want to eat ? (Score : 1)
13. Imagine you are the poet's neighbour in "The Mending Wall". You want to justify your view point that "Good fences make good neighbours". Present your reasons in the form of two arguments. (Scores : 2)
14. Do you think that Nomita, the character in Ashapura Debi's story "Matchbox" acted impulsively without thinking about the consequences ? Or is she a brave woman who questions her husband's selfish ways ? Prepare a character sketch of Nomita. (Scores : 5)
15. Bring out the humour in the title "This is Going to Hurt Just a Little Bit" by Ogden Nash. (Scores : 3)
16. A seminar on "Mangroves : A Rich Source of Bio-diversity" was conducted in your school. Read the programme schedule of the seminar and prepare a report.

"Mangroves : A Rich Source of Bio-diversity"

Venue : School Auditorium
Time : 10 A.M.
Date : 20-7-2015

Programme

Prayer : School Choir
Welcome Speech : Mrs. Suseela Kumari, Principal
Presidential Address : Dr. Satheesh Chandran, Environmental Activist
Felicitation : Santhi, Ward Councillor

Paper Presentations :

1. Mangroves : A Source of Bio-diversity – Athira M.
2. Pokkudan – The Legend of Mangroves – Noufiya
3. Ways to preserve Mangroves – Syam Gopal
4. Mangroves in Kerala – Vaisakh

Vote of Thanks – Divya Krishna, School Leader
National Anthem

(Scores : 4)

17. A panel discussion on corporal punishment "Corporal Punishment : Is it Justifiable ?" was conducted in your school. The panellist who spoke first remarked, "Corporal punishment is not altogether bad. Children need some negative reinforcement when they behave in an undesirable way. Spare the rod and spoil the child is the dictum."
Now, prepare a brief script for the next panellist who wants to counter this argument and highlight the ill-effects of corporal punishment. (Scores : 5)

18. (a) "The Hour of Truth" shows how an upright man resists the temptation of bribe. Prepare a speech to be delivered in the school assembly about the topic "Honesty in Public Life".

OR

- (b) Just like a traffic jam slows down the traffic, corruption slows down a country's development. Prepare the script for a speech to be delivered on Gandhi Jayanthi on the topic "Corruption : Ways to counter it". (Scores : 6)

19. (a) "Damage to the brain is the most subtle, most often unrecognized and least understood consequence of drug abuse." Prepare an essay on the topic "The Hazards of drug abuse".

OR

- (b) Dr. Hardin B. Jones gives a comprehensive idea about the effect of harmful sensual drugs on the human body. Write an essay enlisting the consequences of drug addiction. (Scores : 8)

20. Inspired by Shaheen Mistri, you want to join Akanksha Foundation as a teacher volunteer. You are Megha, a post-graduate in English Literature with good command over the language. Being a socially responsible person, you are willing to share your knowledge and skills for the benefit of the under-privileged. Prepare a letter of application and a resume to be sent to the Foundation. (Scores : 8)

21. Read the following poem and compare it with "Any Woman" by Katharine Tynan.

Rock Me To Sleep

Backward, turn backward, O time, in your flight
Make me a child again, just for tonight !
Mother, come back from that echoless shore;
Take me again in your heart as of yore –
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care;
Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair,
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep –
Rock me to sleep, mother – rock me to sleep !

Mother, dear mother ! the years have been long
Since I last listened to your lullaby song;
Sing, then, and unto my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream;
With your light lashes just sweeping my face,
Never hereafter to wake or to weep –
Rock me to sleep, mother – rock me to sleep !

Elizabeth Akers Allen

(yore – bygone days, furrows – lines or wrinkles)

(Scores : 8)