

## SECOND YEAR FIRST TERMINAL EXAMINATION 2025-26

### Part I English

Score:80

Time:2<sup>1/2</sup> hours

Cool-Off time:15 Minutes

#### Question 1-5. Answer all the questions.

(8 Scores)

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!

1. Identify the poem and the poet. (Score 2 )
2. Who is 'thou' referred to? (Score 1 )
3. Explain the lines. (Score 2 )

To each the boulders that have fallen to each.  
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls  
We have to use a spell to make them balance:

4. What shapes are the boulders described as? (Score 1 )
5. Explain the meaning of the line "We have to use a spell to make them balance" (Score 2)

#### Question 6-8 Answer all the questions. Each carries 2 scores.

(3x2=6)

6. Change the following sentences into passive voice:

- a. Ajit opened the letter and crumpled it.
- b. Antonio and Felix fought a tough match.

7. Convert the following into reported speech:

- a. Felix said, "I have been thinking about our fight."
- b. Martha asked John, "Did you have your lunch?"

8. Fill in the blanks using the correct tense forms of the verbs given in the brackets.

I .....(reach) school a little late this morning. My friend was .....  
(wait) there for me.

#### Question 9-14 .Answer any 5 . Each carries 4 scores.

(5x4=20)

9. Write a short blurb for the play "The Hour of Truth" highlighting the conflict between morality and money and the family's reaction to temptation.

10. What does the story 'Amigo Brothers' teach us about sportsmanship and friendship?

11. Why does Christine Lagarde say that leadership is the final step in women's empowerment?

12. Prepare a short speech to be given at the school assembly on the importance of mothers in our lives, inspired by the poem *Any Woman*.
13. Write four points for or against the idea:  
"Boundaries are necessary to maintain good relationships."
14. Describe the character of John in 'The Hour of Truth'. What does his reaction to the bribe reveal about his values and beliefs?

**Question 15-20 .Answer any 5 .Each carries 6 scores. (5x6=30)**

15. Imagine you are the moderator of a panel discussion on "The Importance of Listening and Empathy in Everyday Life" inspired by the story Horegallu. Prepare an introductory speech to begin the session. (100–120 words)
16. . Imagine you are a journalist interviewing Nomita. Frame six questions you would ask Nomita about her experience and emotions. Provide likely responses too.
17. Write an email to your friend describing the thrilling boxing match between Antonio and Felix in *Amigo Brothers*.
18. Write a request letter to your school principal for organizing a seminar on "Women Empowerment" to make students more aware of gender equality and women's rights.  
(Hints: Emphasize the importance of the topic -Mention the benefits to students (especially girls)-Suggest a guest speaker or workshop format)
19. Taking inspiration from Nomita's story, attempt a speech on the need for transformation in family relationships. Discuss the plight of women in families and how women can assert their rights.
20. Write a news report on Robert Baldwin's refusal to accept bribe from his old friend John Gresham and the revelation made by Marshall. (100–120 words)

**Question 21-23 .Answer any 2 .Each carries 8 scores. (2x8=16)**

21. Describe the roles played by the grandfather and Ratna as emotional horegallus.  
(Hints: Grandfather under the banyan tree listening to villagers.- made them feel lighter through conversation.-Ratna - listened to her colleagues during lunch.- maintained confidentiality -never betrayed their trust- reflect the core message of silent, compassionate social service.)
22. Describe the unique friendship between Antonio and Felix. How did it stand the test of competition?  
(Hints: Antonio and Felix as childhood friends from the same building.- their shared dreams, training, and respect for each other.-they had to fight each other-Separate -Fierce competition-Embraces and leaves the ring)

**23.** Write an appreciation of the poem ‘Women’ by Alice Walker in comparison with ‘Any Woman’ by Katharine Tynan.

***Women by Alice Walker***

They were women then  
My mama’s generation  
Husky of voice—Stout of  
Step  
With fists as well as  
Hands  
How they battered down  
Doors  
And ironed  
Starched white  
Shirts  
How they led  
Armies  
Head ragged generals  
Across mined  
Fields  
Booby-trapped  
Ditches  
To discover books  
Desks  
A place for us  
How they knew what we  
Must know  
Without knowing a page  
Of it  
Themselves.

**Glossary**

- Husky of voice – Deep, strong voice.
- Stout of step – Firm and confident walk.
- Fists as well as hands – Strong and caring at the same time.
- Battered down doors – Broke through barriers or difficulties.
- Starched white shirts – Clean, stiff shirts showing hard work.
- Led armies – Guided others bravely.
- Headragged generals – Strong women leaders wearing headscarves.
- Mined fields – Life full of dangers or problems.
- Booby-trapped ditches – Hidden troubles or challenges.
- To discover books – To find education.
- Desks / A place for us – Schools or learning spaces.
- Must know – Something very important to learn.
- Without knowing a page – They didn’t have education themselves.