

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT III 2025-26
(MODEL QUESTION PAPER)
ENGLISH

STD: X

Time: 2½ hrs
Maximum Score: 80

Instructions:

1. The cool-off time of the first 15 minutes is to be used for reading the question paper.
2. You are not supposed to write anything during the cool off time.
3. Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

Questions 1-6: Read the excerpt from *A Piece of String* and answer the questions that follow. (6×1=6)

Hauchecome had just arrived at Goderville, and he was walking towards the public square. Then he saw a little piece of string on the ground. He thought that everything useful ought to be picked up. He took the bit of thin cord from the ground and began to roll it carefully. Then he noticed Malandain, on the threshold of his door, looking at him. They were on bad terms with each other. Hauchecome was seized with shame to be seen thus by his enemy. He concealed his find quickly in his trousers pocket. He pretended to be looking on the ground for something else. Then, he went towards the market.

He was soon lost in the noisy crowd. Soon, the square was deserted. At the tavern, the great hall was full of people eating. An appetising odour of roast meat rose from the hearth which made everybody's mouth water.

1. Where did Hauchcome find the little piece of string?
2. Why did he pick up the piece of string? Choose the most appropriate option.
 - a) He thought Malandain was planning to pick it up.
 - b) He was always fond of strings.
 - c) He believed that useful things should be picked up.
 - d) He wanted to give it to his wife.
3. Why did Hauchcome hide the string in his trousers pocket?
4. How did he try to divert Malandain's attention?
5. What do we understand Hauchcome's nature from the passage given above? Choose the most suitable option.
 - a) curious and careful
 - b) ashamed and nervous
 - c) ashamed and cheerful
 - d) curious and compassionate
6. Identify the word in the passage which denotes a **smell or aroma**.

Questions 7-11: Read these stanzas from *The Seedling* and answer the questions that follow. (5×1=5)

As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:
“I am not so very robust,
But I’ll do the best I can;”
And the seedling from that moment
Its work of life began.
So it pushed a little leaflet
Up into the light of day,
To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way.

7. What did the seedling decide to do, despite not being very strong?
8. What does the expression 'I am not so very robust' tell us about the seedling's character?
9. What does the expression 'show the rest the way' imply? Choose the best option.
 - a) The seedling has not discovered the way.
 - b) The seedling was a guide and source of inspiration.
 - c) The seedling wanted to find the way.
 - d) The seedling was competing with other plants.
10. What is the poetic device in the line 'To itself it fell a-talking'?
11. Which of these qualities does the seedling possess?
 - a) courage and callousness
 - b) nurturing and motivational nature
 - c) pride and prejudice
 - d) calm and lethargic spirit

Questions 12-15: Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (4×1=4)

The Changing Faces of Generations

Each generation reflects the world in which it grows up. Generation X (roughly those born between 1965 and 1980) are often described as self-reliant, practical, and adaptable. They experienced the advent of personal computers and cable television, which made them comfortable with technology while maintaining traditional work ethics. Many grew up as ‘latchkey kids,’ returning to empty homes after school, which made them independent and resourceful. However, Gen X face challenges such as financial insecurity and balancing care for aging parents and children. Generation Z

(those born between 1997 and 2012) are true digital natives who have never known life without smartphones or the internet. They value authenticity, inclusivity, and mental health awareness. Gen Z tends to communicate through visuals, emojis, and short-form videos, reflecting fast-paced thinking and creativity. Their flexible approach to learning and work makes them open to change, though constant online exposure can lead to anxiety and shorter attention spans. Generation Alpha (born from around 2010 to 2024) is growing up in a world defined by artificial intelligence, social media, and interactive learning. Their education and friendships often happen in digital spaces. These children are expected to be highly tech-skilled but may struggle with face-to-face socialization and screen dependency. Studies suggest that values like sustainability, diversity, and innovation will strongly shape their world-view. Looking ahead, Generation Beta (those born from 2025) is still a future generation. Experts predict that they will grow up with even more advanced technology, including AI companions, global classrooms, and new digital language. While it is too early to predict their character, they are expected to continue the trend of technological immersion and global connectedness that began with Gen Z and Alpha.

12. Which of the following best describes Generation X?

- A) Tech-averse and traditional
- B) Independent and adaptable
- C) Highly dependent on parents
- D) Born after 2010

13. Read the following statements about Generations X, Z, Alpha, and Beta.

- A. Generation X grew up with personal computers and cable television and is known for independence.
- B. Generation Z prefers traditional classroom learning over flexible, digital approaches.
- C. Generation Alpha is expected to have strong skills in technology but may face challenges in face-to-face socialization.
- D. Generation Beta is already well-defined with clear characteristics and limitations.

Choose the correct answer:

- A) Only A and C are correct
- B) Only A, B, and C are correct
- C) Only A, C, and D are correct
- D) All four statements are correct

14. To which generation would a person born in 2022 belong?

15. What do you infer about the learning style of Generation Z?

16. (A) Read the following lines from the song *Another Day in Paradise* and prepare an **appreciation** focusing on the theme, the poetic devices and the

contemporary relevance of the song.

(1×5=5)

She calls out to the man on the street
"Sir, can you help me?
It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep,
Is there somewhere you can tell me?"
He walks on, doesn't look back
He pretends he can't hear her
Starts to whistle as he crosses the street
Seems embarrassed to be there.
Oh, think twice, cause it's another day for
You and me in paradise.
Oh, think twice, cause it's another day for you,
You and me in paradise,
Think about it.

OR

16. (B) Read these lines from the poem *Mirror* and from *An Introduction* by Kamala Das and then write a **paragraph** comparing the themes of both poems.

Mirror

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful,
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

An Introduction

I am an Indian, very brown, born in Malabar,
I speak three languages, write in
Two, dream in one.
Don't write in English, they said, English is
Not your mother-tongue. Why not leave
Me alone, critics, friends, visiting cousins,
Every one of you? Why not let me speak in
Any language I like? The language I speak,
Becomes mine, its distortions, its queernesses
All mine, mine alone.

17. Edit the passage. The errors are given in bold type.

(6×½=3)

Władysław Szpilman was a Polish pianist **which(a)** survived the horrors of World War II. He **hidden(b)** in a ruined building in Warsaw, struggling to stay alive on very little food and water. One day, a German officer discovered him but **choose(c)** to spare his life after hearing **them(d)** play the piano. **The officer(e)** act of kindness restored Szpilman's hope in humanity. Later, Szpilman wrote his **memoire(f)** *The Pianist*, which became a best seller.

18. Complete the paragraph using appropriate forms of the idioms/phrasal verbs given in brackets.

(4×1=4)

The narrator was desperately(a)..... a job when she(b)..... an advertisement in a free paper. It was the post of a salesgirl in a bakery and preferred applicants who spoke the local dialect. Her friend tried to discourage her, but she refused to(c)..... hope. The next morning, she went to the bakery, only to be humiliated by the owner's biased remarks. Yet, she decided to(d)..... to better opportunities.

(look forward, give up, come across, put across, give up, look for)

19. Complete the following passage choosing the right words from those given in the brackets.

(6×½=3)

The news spread(a)..... the neighbourhood. Hauchecome was(b)..... a spirit of triumph. He immediately began to recount his story(c)..... its happy climax. He talked(d)..... his adventure all day long. He told it(e)..... the highway to people who were passing by, and to persons coming out of church(f)..... following Sunday.

(with, in, the, on, for, through, of,)

20. Complete the following conversation between the Mayor and Hauchecome suitably.

(4×1=4)

- Mayor : Mr. Hauchecome, you were seen picking up a pocketbook from the market road this morning,(a).....?
- Hauchecome : No, Your Honour!
- Mayor :(b).....?
- Hauchecome : I picked up only a small piece of string.
- Mayor : Mr. Malandain says he saw you pick up the pocketbook.
- Hauchecome : Me? I need to clear my name. Would you mind(c).....?

Mayor : That's fine. I'll ask my officials to search you.
 Hauchecome : Now see, nothing is found. I told you I am innocent.
 Mayor : I still have my doubts as Malandain is a man of credence. I'd rather you(d).....
 Hauchecome : Sir, how can I return something that I haven't taken. Please trust me.
 Mayor : You may leave for now.

21. Report the following dialogue.

(2×1=2)

KING : Is the hermit father there?
 THE TWO HERMITS : No, he has left his daughter to welcome the guests, and has just gone to Somatirtha.
 a.
 b.

22. Combine the following pairs of sentences choosing either.... or/ neither...nor.

(2×1=2)

- a. Rani will present the report tomorrow.
Meera will present the report tomorrow.
- b. The students were not present in the classroom.
The teacher was not present in the classroom.

23. Complete the narration with appropriate portmanteau words choosing from those given in brackets.

(4×½=2)

Yesterday we stopped at a small(a)..... on the outskirts of the city after a long drive. As we had woken up late, we enjoyed a delicious(b)..... of pancakes and fruits before heading out. The city ahead was covered in thick(c)....., making the sky dull and hazy. To relax, we ordered a cool(d)..... at a nearby café and chatted about our travel plans.
 (brunch, mocktail, spork, motel, smog)

Questions 24-27: Answer either A or B.

- 24. [A]** Write a **review** of *Préférence Nationale*, commenting on the theme of the story, the portrayal of the main character and the depiction of prejudice, indignity, and inequality in the French society of the time. **(1×7=7)**

(Hints: Racism – discrimination – **préférence nationale** – inequality – lack of dignity for non-nationals- resilient – witty – observant – dignified – proud-society-prejudiced – exclusionary – indifferent – blind to merit- lack of equality – respect for human dignity – courage to challenge injustice)

OR

24. [B] Prepare a **news article** for a local newspaper titled “Pianist Emerges Alive from Ruins” based on the events of *In the Attic*. Include details of Szpilman’s survival, the German officer’s unexpected kindness, and Szpilman’s eventual freedom.

(Władysław Szpilman, the pianist – in Warsaw, in the attic/ruins - hides alone- lives on scraps -endures harsh conditions- German officer shows kindness- gives him food- spares him -eventually discovered and freed as the city is liberated)

25. [A] Prepare a detailed **narrative** of the events that happen in Act I, *The Hunt* of *Shākuntalam* focusing on the characters, their poetic style of speech, and the attitude to the environment. (1×6=6)

OR

25. [B] In the light of your reading of the story *The Phoenix Rises*, prepare a **speech** on the topic “Breaking Barriers through Determination” highlighting how Bablu Kewat’s courage and persistence brings about social change.

26. [A] The old man A *Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* comes out as a weak and vulnerable person, victimised by the society. Prepare a **character sketch** of the old man. (1×6=6)

OR

26. [B] The student in the story *Beloved Boles* decides to write an email to a friend of his, describing his experience with Teresa. He explains what Teresa had asked him to do, how he felt about her request, and the lessons he learned. Draft the likely **email**.

27. (A) The Debate Club of your school is to discuss the topic “Artificial Intelligence is a threat to human employment.” **Fill in the blanks with suitable ideas for or against the motion**, giving valid arguments to support your views. (1×4=4)

(Each blank carries equal marks.)

Arguments in favour of the topic (AI is a threat to human employment):

1. _____ a _____
2. _____ b _____

Arguments against the topic (AI is not a threat to human employment):

1. _____ c _____
2. _____ d _____

OR

27. (B) Product: Eco Clean 360 – Smart Plastic Waste Remover

Write the product **description** highlighting its features, advantages, and environmental benefits. You may use the hints below.

Hints:

- Type: Portable, solar-powered plastic waste remover
- Function: Collects water and separates plastics from water and soil
- Features: Smart sensors, rechargeable battery, self-cleaning filter
- Material: Lightweight, durable
- Coverage: Up to 2 km radius on a single charge
- Price: ₹5,999/-
- Target users: Environmental organizations, schools, local bodies, and households.

Question 28-30: Answer all the questions.

- 28.** Write a short **profile** of D. H. Lawrence, the famous English novelist, poet, and essayist. You may use the hints below. **(1×5=5)**

Hints:

- Full name : David Herbert Lawrence
- Birth : 11 September 1885, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, England
- Parents : Father – Arthur John Lawrence (coal miner); Mother – Lydia Beardsall (former schoolteacher)
- Education : Nottingham High School; Nottingham University College
- Major works : *Sons and Lovers*, *The Rainbow*, *Women in Love*
- Themes : Human relationships, industrial society, emotional health, nature
- Later life : Travelled widely (Italy, Australia, Mexico...) for health and inspiration
- Death : 2 March 1930, in Vence, France
- Legacy : A bold modernist writer who explored human emotions and the need for social change.

- 29.** The Science Club of your school has decided to arrange a function to honour the "Padman" of India Arunachalam Muruganandam, for his contributions to the society. Prepare the likely **notice**. **(1×3=3)**

30. Draft a short **conversation** between Salim Ali and Baron Omar Rolf after their encounter with the tusker. (1×4=4)

Questions 31-35: Read the following instructions displayed in four public places and answer the questions that follow. (5×1=5)

1. In a Library Silence is Golden Set phones in silent mode. Handle Books and Journals with Care No Food or Drinks inside Your belongings is Your responsibility	2. In a Zoo Do Not Feed the Animals Stay on Designated Paths Keep Your Voice Down No Flash Photography Plastic Free Zone
3. In a Hospital Silence is Healing Sanitize Your Hands Do not visit patients if Unwell Respect Patient Privacy Visitor Hours (9 am – 12noon)	

31. Which instruction in the library tells us to take care of our valuables?
32. In which institution do we have to follow strict visiting hours?
33. Why is the zoo a plastic-free zone?
34. Why should we stay on designated paths in a zoo? Choose the best option.
- To avoid getting into danger
 - To see more animals
 - To take photos
 - To buy food
35. Read the following statements about hospital etiquette.
- Visitors should avoid visiting patients in the hospital if they are unwell.
 - Speaking loudly inside the hospital helps patients stay alert and active.
 - Maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the hospital premises reduces the risk of contamination.
 - You may freely visit the hospital at any time, even beyond the visiting hours.
- Which of the following statements are **correct**?
- 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 4 only
 - 1, 2, and 3 only
 - All the above