

**SECOND TERM ENGLISH EXAMINATION - MODEL QUESTION
PAPER (80 Marks)**

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

(Time: 2½ hours)

I. Reading Comprehension

Questions 1-5 (5 × 1 = 5 marks)

Read the excerpt from *"The Gift of the Magi"* by O. Henry and answer the following questions:

Della finished crying and looked at herself in the mirror. Tomorrow was Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 to buy Jim a gift. For months she had been saving every penny she could. But expenses had been greater than she had expected. She stood by the window and watched the grey cat walk on the grey fence in the grey backyard. Suddenly she whirled around, eyes shining. She knew what she could do. Della rushed out, her hair falling to her waist – her most prized possession.

Twenty minutes later, she stood in a shop with her shorn hair in her hands. "Will you buy my hair?" she asked. "I buy hair," said the woman. "Sit down." The next two hours sped by as Della searched for the perfect gift for Jim.

1. Why was Della crying at the beginning of the passage?
2. What does the colour "grey" repeated in the description symbolize?
3. Why did Della consider her hair her "most prized possession"?
4. What does the phrase "...eyes shining" suggest about her emotional state?
5. Identify the Noun Phrase and Verb Phrase in the sentence:

"Della searched for the perfect gift."

II. Poem / Drama Appreciation

Questions 6-9: From The Wild Swans at Coole

(4 × 1 = 4 marks)**

6. What season is described in the poem, and how does it affect the mood?
7. The poet says, "*Their hearts have not grown old.*" What does this reveal about the swans?
8. Identify the figure of speech in the line:

"The nineteenth autumn has come upon me."

9. Why does the poet feel a sense of loss when he watches the swans?
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III. Paragraph Question - Prose

(4 × 1 = 4 marks)

10. Why were the passengers in the train distressed?
11. The stout man initially appears strong. Why does he finally break down?
12. What message about parental love is conveyed through the discussion in the carriage?
13. Choose the correct option:

The story "War" mainly highlights:

- A) Patriotism
 - B) Social status
 - C) The emotional cost of war
 - D) The value of education
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Long Answer - (Attempt any ONE from each pair)

Q.14 A or B (1 × 7 = 7 marks)

A. Prepare a critical appreciation of the song focusing on its theme of social indifference, images of urban suffering, and the refrain as a poetic device.

OR

B. The Wild Swans at Coole

Write a review of the poem highlighting its themes of change, permanence, and emotional conflict.

Q.15 A or B (1 × 7 = 7 marks)

A. War

Draft a diary entry of the grieving mother after witnessing the stout man's emotional collapse.

OR

B. Shakuntalam

Describe how nature and the hermitage setting influence the characters in Act I of *Shakuntalam*.

Q.16 A or B (1 × 7 = 7 marks)

A. A Piece of String

Write a character sketch of Hauchecome bringing out his personality, his sense of honour, and the tragedy of false accusations.

OR

B. Trills and Thrills: Birdwatching in India

Prepare a brief write-up on Salim Ali's contribution to birdwatching and conservation in India.

V. Advertisement Analysis / Notice / Factual Text

Questions 17-20 (1 × 5 = 5 marks)

Study the given *Bird Sanctuary Tourism Poster* (imaginary) and answer the questions.



17. What is the main purpose of the poster?
18. Name two attractions mentioned in the poster.
19. Who is the target audience?
20. Which feature makes the sanctuary especially suitable for children?

VI. Grammar Section

Q.21 Editing (6 × ½ = 3 marks)

Edit the passage (errors in bold letters):

The hermit girls **was** walking through the grove when Shakuntala **greet** them.

They **have been watering** the trees since morning.

The king **were** watching them from behind the bushes, wondering how to **been introducing** himself.

Q. 22. Complete the following paragraph using the correct forms of the phrasal verbs given in brackets:

(put up with, put across, put out, put on, put aside)

The passengers in the train tried their best to comfort the grieving mother, but she could not _____ her sorrow. The stout man attempted to _____ his thoughts clearly, but his voice trembled with emotion. One of the women quickly _____ a shawl over the mother's shoulders when she began shivering. The other passengers _____ their differences and listened with sympathy. Before leaving, a hermit requested the stout man not to _____ any lamps in the carriage, as it was against the rules of the hermitage.



Q.23. (6 × ½ = 3 marks)

Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate words from those given in brackets.

(affection, preserve, wander, fragile, harmony, ancient)

The hermitage where Shakuntala lived was a place of peace and _____. The sages taught their pupils to _____ nature and protect every living creature. Even the _____ fawns roamed fearlessly through the grove. Visitors often paused to gaze at the _____ trees that stood there for centuries. Shakuntala would gently guide the young deer that loved to _____ near the jasmine vines. Her _____ for every creature made the hermitage a sanctuary of love.



Q.24 - Conversation Completion

(4 × ½ = 2 marks)

Complete the following conversation between King Dushyanta and one of the hermits' pupils, using appropriate expressions:

Dushyanta: Child, is Sage Kanva present in the hermitage today?

Pupil: No, Your Majesty. He has gone to Somatirtha. But Shakuntala will welcome you.

Dushyanta: Very well. Could you please guide me to her cottage?

Pupil: Certainly, Your Majesty. It is just beyond the mango grove. _____?

Dushyanta: Yes, that would be helpful. _____.

Pupil: We are honoured by your visit, Your Majesty.

Dushyanta: Thank you, child. Please inform Shakuntala that I am coming.

Pupil: Of course, Your Majesty. _____?

Dushyanta: No, I shall walk from here. Thank you.

Q.25 Reported Speech (2 × 1 = 2 marks)

Convert the dialogue:

Hermit: "O King, this deer belongs to the hermitage."

Dushyanta: "I shall not harm it."

Q.26 Creative Writing - Captioning

(2 × 1 = 2 marks)

Write suitable two-word captions for the given images using the word clues: (*tranquil, graceful, forest, unity, compassion*)

