

Kerala 10th Second Term (Christmas) English Exam Model Question Paper

Std: X

Time: 2½ hrs

Total Score: 80

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **15 minutes** is given as cool off time.
- This time is to be used for reading the question paper. You are not supposed to write anything during the cool off time.
- Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

Section A: Reading Comprehension (10 Marks)

Questions 1-5: Read the excerpt from a story about perseverance and answer the questions that follow. (5×1=5)

The old, blind clockmaker, Mr. Pendleton, often told young Leo, "A clock, like a life, is not defined by the ease of its workings, but by the difficulty it overcomes." Leo watched Mr. Pendleton's hands, which were gnarled but steady, assemble the smallest gears. Though Mr. Pendleton couldn't see the tiny parts, he knew each by its weight and texture, a knowledge born of a lifetime of dedication. One day, a wealthy merchant brought in a priceless antique clock. It was missing a unique, helical spring, an impossibly complex piece. The merchant was skeptical that a blind man could fix it. Mr. Pendleton simply smiled, took a piece of metal, and spent two weeks filing, bending, and polishing it by touch alone. When the merchant returned, the clock chimed perfectly. "How did you do it?" the merchant asked, astonished. "I didn't let what I lacked define what I could achieve," Mr. Pendleton replied.

1. What did Mr. Pendleton compare a clock to?
2. What quality defined Mr. Pendleton's ability to assemble the clock parts?
3. Why was the wealthy merchant skeptical of Mr. Pendleton?
4. Choose the statement that best reflects the theme of the passage: A. True skill requires perfect eyesight. B. Perseverance and determination overcome physical limitations. C. Antique clocks are hard to repair. D. Wealthy merchants are easily impressed.
5. Identify the **Noun Phrase** in the subject position and the **Verb Phrase** from the sentence:
"The wealthy merchant was skeptical that a blind man could fix it."

Questions 6-9: Read the following lines from a poem about nature and answer the questions that follow. (4×1=4)

I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

6. How does the poet initially describe his state of mind?
7. What image is used to describe the large number of daffodils?
8. What two verbs describe the movement of the daffodils?
9. What is the poetic device used in the line "I wandered lonely as a cloud"?

Question 10: Read the passage given below and frame four appropriate questions based on it. (1×4=4)

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, was known as the 'Missile Man' for his work on developing ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. His greatest contribution was in making India a self-reliant nation in terms of defense technology. He passed away on July 27, 2015, while delivering a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, but his legacy continues to inspire millions of young people across the globe.

Section B: Writing Tasks (48 Marks)

Answer either A or B for the following questions.

Question 11: (1×7=7)

[A] In the story 'A Phoenix Rises,' Bablu's journey highlights his relentless pursuit of a solution to a socio-economic problem. Prepare a **review** of the story, focusing on the characterisation of **Bablu** and **Gowri**, the key **theme** of innovation for social good, and the overall **plot development**.

OR

[B] The lesson 'In the Attic' (Szpilman's memoir) is a powerful testimony to the strength of the human spirit in the face of absolute inhumanity. Prepare a **write-up** on the topic 'The Unseen Strength: Endurance and Hope in Dark Times,' based on Szpilman's experiences.

Question 12: (1×6=6)

[A] The old man in 'A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings' is a figure of mystery, resilience, and endurance. Prepare a **character sketch** of the old man, focusing on the contrast between his vulnerable appearance and his immense spiritual strength.

OR

[B] Your school is inviting **Arunachalam Muruganantham** to inaugurate a new Health and Hygiene campaign. Draft an **email** to him requesting his presence and highlighting the impact of his work on women's empowerment.

Question 13: (1×6=6)

[A] Imagine **Srikanth Bolla** is addressing a group of young innovators at a 'Science for All' conclave. Prepare the **likely speech** he would deliver, focusing on the importance of seeing **disability as a different ability** and the role of **innovation** in creating an inclusive world.

OR

[B] You are the correspondent of a national newspaper. Prepare a **news report** on a recent local initiative where students of a nearby school launched a campaign to promote the use of eco-friendly products like the **bio-degradable pens that contain seeds**.

Question 14: (1×4=4)

[A] The memoir 'In the Attic' provides a window into the darkest period of human history. Prepare a short **paragraph** on how survivor testimonies like this are essential for historical memory and for teaching empathy to future generations.

OR

[B] The Eco Club of your school is selling handmade paper bags as an alternative to plastic. Prepare **two rhythmic sentences** that can be used to create **advertisement jingles** to promote the product.

Question 15: (1×6=6)

Using the details provided in the box (which you may infer from the textbook topics on **Srikanth Bolla**), prepare his **biographical sketch**.

Field	Details
Early life	Born without eyes; farmer's son; excelled in academics despite obstacles.
Major events	Fought a legal battle to study science in HSS; scored 98%; was associated with APJ Abdul Kalam.
Accomplishments	1st international blind student at MIT, USA; established Bollant Industries (eco-friendly products).
Vision	Providing employment and support to the disabled.

Question 16: (1×4=4)

The Principal of your school is organising a motivational talk by **Srikanth Bolla**. Prepare an **event invitation** to be sent to parents and other schools. Include necessary details such as the purpose, date, time, venue, and the credentials of the chief guest.

Question 17: (1×6=6)

The poem '**The Ballad of Father Gilligan**' describes a priest's devotion and his exhaustion. Write an **appreciation** of the poem, focusing on the theme of **divine compassion** and the use of literary devices like **rhyme**, **rhythm**, and **symbolism**.

Question 18: (1×4=4)

In the poem '**The Ballad of Father Gilligan**', the phrase "The old priest **was weary**" and the line "He yawned, and **nodded his head**" suggest that the priest was overwhelmed by his work.

[A] Name the figure of speech used in the line: "He **breathed** a prayer to God and **slept**." [B] What quality of Father Gilligan does the phrase "A mighty angel **did** all the rest" emphasize? [C] Explain the significance of the phrase: "Nor **ever** had he been in bed." [D] What does the poem suggest about God's response to sincere human devotion?

Section C: Grammar and Language Skills (22 Marks)

Question 19: Edit the passage. Errors are given in bold. (6×21=3)

Bablu was determined **for** (a) find a solution. He decided **to** (b) start a new project. His first attempt **wasn't** (c) successful as he **couldn't** (d) identify the material **used** (e) by the brands. Months **pass** (f) and he continued his efforts.

Question 20: Complete the paragraph using appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs given in the bracket. (5×1=5)

The family had to (a)... the stench of the angel for many days. Pelayo tried to make the coop better, but the angel just (b)... with the pain. Elisenda tried to (c)... a plan to make more money. They realised that the angel's presence would not (d)... a long-term solution. Eventually, they decided they had to (e)... all their fear.

(*take up, put up with, give up, go on, come down, do away with*)

Question 21: Complete the following passage choosing the right words from the bracket. (6×21=3)

When the German officer asked Szpilman, "What is it (a)... you do?" Szpilman, (b)... fear, replied that he was (c)... pianist. The officer, instead (d)... harming him, gave him (e)... food and shelter. This single act of humanity was (f)... saving grace for Szpilman.

(*a, the, of, with, out, a, in, some*)

Question 22: Complete the conversation between Pelayo and Elisenda. (5×1=5)

Elisenda: I wish we had charged a higher admission fee. **Pelayo:** (a).....? **Elisenda:** Yes. People are now flocking to see the spider woman because her admission is cheaper. **Pelayo:** If we had treated the angel better, (b)..... **Elisenda:** That's true. But we spent all the money on the house renovation. **Pelayo:** (c)..... the angel away now? **Elisenda:** No, he is useful. He could still (d)..... a miracle, couldn't he? **Pelayo:** I hope so. We had better (e)..... his coop.

Question 23: Report the following dialogue. (2×1=2)

Szpilman: Sir, I am a musician. **Officer Hosenfeld:** Don't worry. I will help you find a safer place to hide.

a. b.

Question 24/32 (Revised Context): Create pairs using the words given in the box to provide apt captions for the given two news headlines. (2×1=2)

Headlines:

1. "Local Fisherman Rescues Stranded Dolphin in Storm, Hailed as Hero."
2. "New Space Telescope Finds Evidence of Water Vapor on Distant Exoplanet."

Words: *discovery, turbulent, cosmic, humanity, profound, achievement*