

# Higher Secondary First Year Examination 2025

## English Answer key

### Part I: Section 1 (Questions 1–8)

1. **Balloon Name:** Le Horla.
  2. **Lesson:** The Trip of Le Horla.
  3. **Animal Sounds:** Mewing of cats and barking of dogs.
  4. **Synonym:** Scared.
  5. **Poet:** James Shirley.
  6. **Rhyme Scheme:** ab ab cc dd.
  7. **Planting:** Fresh laurels.
  8. **Phrasal Verb:** Give up.
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### Part II: Section 2 (Questions 9–12)

9. **Grammar:**
    - (a) Either the manager or his assistants **are** responsible for the mistake .
    - (b) **Besides** being a great athlete, she's also an excellent student.
  10. **Reported Speech:** Gupta asked Maggie if she heard from her brother. Maggie replied that they had not had a letter from him for a long time and added that her mother was very worried .
  11. **Sentence Completion:**
    - (a) If they had arrived earlier, **they would have caught the train.**
    - (b) If I were you, **I would work harder.**
  12. **Advice for Zoo:**
    - "Please don't feed or tease the animals during our walk".
    - "You should not go too close to the animal enclosures".
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### Part III: Section 3 (Questions 13–19)

13. **Précis:** > **Title: Natural Disasters and Safety**

Natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and wildfires cause immense damage to life, property, and the environment. Often occurring without warning, these forces of nature destroy infrastructure

and crops. To minimize harm and ensure quick recovery, it is essential for communities to have well-prepared safety and recovery plans .

14. **Alice Margaret Clifford:** Alice is the protagonist of "The Price of Flowers." She is a young, hardworking girl in London who supports her widowed mother. Despite her poverty, she is selfless, spending her meager savings to buy flowers for Gupta to place on her brother's grave in India. She is a symbol of ultimate love, sacrifice, and maturity beyond her years.
15. **Profile of Banu Mushtaq:** Banu Mushtaq is a prominent Kannada writer, activist, and lawyer born on April 3, 1948, in Hassan, Karnataka. She served as a reporter for *Lankesh Patrike* and is known for her notable work *Heart Lamp*. In 2025, she was honored with the International Booker Prize. Her story *Kari Naagaragalu* was adapted into the film *Hasina*. She is also an active member of the civil society group *Komu Souhardha Vedike*.
16. **Write-up on Madge Jope-Smith:** Madge Jope-Smith represents a selfish and snobbish personality. In "The Serang of Ranaganji," she mocks Hasan's physical appearance, showing a complete lack of manners and discipline. Her behavior demonstrates an absence of moral values like sympathy or empathy. She is depicted as a boring individual who only finds joy in insulting and ridiculing others.
17. **Editing:** I am not one of those **extremists** who must have a vehicle to every destination. I never **go** out of my way to avoid exercise. Those valetudinarians who **are** always chattering about it are no reason for despising it. I am inclined **to** think that it is rather good for one.
18. **Local Ritual:** In my locality, we practice the ritual of **Onathappan** during Onam. It involves placing clay mounds decorated with flowers in the courtyard. This ritual is linked to the legend of **King Mahabali**, whose righteous rule was tested by Lord Vishnu in the form of **Vamana**. It signifies the homecoming of the beloved king.
19. **Elaboration of Lines:** These lines from "A Psalm of Life" (or similar nature poetry) emphasize that nature is a great healer. When a person is "hard beset" with sorrows, the poet suggests going to the "woods and hills." Nature's eternal beauty has a soothing effect that prevents the heart from fainting and the soul from losing hope .

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#### Part IV: Section 4 (Questions 20–25)

20. **Essay on Gandhi:** Gandhi's vision for India was rooted in social justice and equality. He dreamt of an India where the poorest citizen felt they had an effective voice in the nation's making. He vehemently opposed discrimination based on caste or gender and spent his life working for the betterment of the weaker sections of society. His tools were Truth and Non-violence, believing that a just society can only be built on a foundation of moral integrity.

21. **Letter to the Editor:** > To, The Editor, [Newspaper Name].

Sir, I wish to highlight the alarming spread of superstition and black magic in our society. These practices often target vulnerable women and children. It is high time we raise awareness through community programs and ensure strict legal action against fake yogis and saints who exploit the public's fear.

22. **Email Invitation:**

Subject: Invitation as Guest of Honor - Science Fair 2026 Dear Sir, We are delighted to invite you to RK Z School's Science Fair. Your journey from a curious student to a reputable Marine Engineer is an inspiration. The event is scheduled for February 14. We would be honored if you could address our students and share your experiences.

23. **Seminar Report:** On February 14, 2025, the IT Club of RK Z School, Kottayam, organized a seminar on "Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security." The event began with a prayer by the school choir, followed by a welcome speech from Principal Usha Kumari. Dr. Ahamed Razi (CI, Cyber Cell) inaugurated the session. Paper presentations were given by Mari Muthu, Haseebudhin, Caroline, and Bhimrao on topics like Data Protection and Cyber Forensics. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Salim Ali .
24. **Live TV Report:** "Good evening, I am reporting live from the grounds where the magnificent *Le Horla* is about to take flight. The atmosphere is electric as the crew prepares the hot air balloon. Spectators are cheering as the giant balloon slowly rises, defying gravity. This is a historic moment in aerial travel, and we are witnessing a grand launch that marks a new chapter in adventure!".
25. **Conversation with Ivan:**
- **Me:** Ivan, why do you believe that a "happy man" is often unaware of the suffering of others?
  - **Ivan:** Because happiness can be a form of blindness. We shut ourselves in our own "gooseberry patches" and forget the world.
  - **Me:** So, is there no place for personal happiness?
  - **Ivan:** There is, but it should not be the ultimate goal. One must do good while they are still young and strong.

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#### Part V: Section 5 (Questions 26–28)

26. **Speech on Mental Health:** "Respected teachers and friends, today we discuss 'The Impact of Mental Health on Self-Confidence.' In this fast-paced world, youth face immense stress and trauma, which directly erodes their confidence. We must realize that mental wellness is as important as physical health. Through regular exercise, recreation, and open conversations, we can resolve these crises and rebuild our self-esteem".
27. **Job Application & Resume: \* Application:** "I am writing to apply for the post of English Teacher as advertised. With a BA, B.Ed, and 5 years of experience, I am confident in my ability to handle diverse student backgrounds and utilize educational technology".
- **Resume:** Include Name, Objective, Educational Qualifications (BA, B.Ed), 5 years Experience at [Previous School], and Skills (Communication, Computer Proficiency).
28. **Critical Appreciation of "The Titanic":** Katherine Lee Bates' poem "The Titanic" describes the tragic maiden voyage of the "palace upon the sea." The poet uses imagery like the "proud bows foaming" and metaphors like the "purple shroud" to depict the ship's end. The theme shifts from human vanity to heroism, suggesting that while the ship sank, the "Immortal Life" of the heroic soul defeated death. The tone is solemn yet majestic .