

FY-101

Reg. No. :

Name :

FIRST YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION, MARCH 2026

Part - I

Time : 2½ Hours

ENGLISH

Cool-off time : 15 Minutes

Maximum : 80 Scores

General Instructions to Candidates :

- There is a 'Cool-off time' of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time.
- Use the 'Cool-off time' to get familiar with questions and to plan your answers.
- Read questions carefully before answering.
- Write answers to the specific number of questions as instructed.

Q. No. 1 to 4 : Read the passage and answer the questions given below. (4)

The view is superb; it is dark on the earth, but we are still in the light, and it is now past ten o'clock. Now, we begin to hear slight country noises, the double cry of the quail in particular, then the mewing of cats and the barking of dogs. Surely, the dogs have scented the balloon; they have seen it and have given the alarm. We can hear them barking all over the plain, and making the identical noise they make when baying at the moon. The cows also seem to wake up in the barns, for we can hear them lowing; all the beasts are scared and moved before the aerial monster that is passing.

1. What is the name of the balloon being referred to in this context ? (1)
2. From which lesson is the excerpt taken ? (1)
3. Identify any two animal sounds cited in this passage. (1)
4. Which word in the passage is synonymous with "frightened" ? (1)

Q. No. 5 to 8 : Read the lines and answer the questions given below.

(4)

Some men with swords may reap the field,

And plant fresh laurels where they kill:

But their strong nerves at last must yield;

They tame but one another still:

Early or late

They stoop to fate,

And must give up their murmuring breath

When they, pale captives, creep to death.

- 5 Identify the poet. **(1)**
- 6 What is the pattern of the rhyme scheme in these lines? **(1)**
- 7 What do some men plant in the places where they kill? **(1)**
- 8 Which phrasal verb in the lines means "to stop" or "to surrender"? **(1)**

Q. No. 9 to 12 : Answer any three of the following questions. Each carries 2 scores.

(3 × 2 = 6)

9. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the brackets : **(2)**
- (a) Either the manager or his assistants _____ (is, are) responsible for the mistake.
- (b) _____ (Besides, Beside) being a great athlete, she's also an excellent student.
10. Change the following conversation into reported speech : **(2)**
- Gupta : Do you hear from your brother ?
- Maggie : We had not had a letter from him for a long time. My mother is very worried.
11. Complete the following sentences suitably : **(2)**
- (a) If they had arrived earlier, _____
- (b) If I were you, _____
12. Imagine that you and your friends are visiting a zoo as part of your school trip. You want to give your friends some advice. Write two pieces of advice that you would give to your friends. **(2)**

Q. No. 13 to 19 : Answer any five of the following questions. Each carries 4 scores.

(5 × 4 = 20)

13. Read the following paragraph and prepare a précis out of it : (4)

Natural disasters are events like earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and wildfires. They happen because of natural forces and can cause a lot of damage. Earthquakes shake the ground, floods fill areas with water, hurricanes bring strong winds and rain, and wildfires burn forests and homes. These disasters can harm people, animals and the environment. They can destroy buildings, roads and crops. Sometimes, natural disasters happen suddenly and without warning, making it hard for people to prepare. It's important for communities to have plans in place to stay safe and recover quickly when disasters strike. (90 Words)

14. Prepare a short character sketch of Alice Margaret Clifford. (4)

15. Prepare a profile of Banu Mushtaq, the Kannada writer who received the International Booker Prize in 2025, employing the following hints. (4)

- **Born** : 3 April 1948, Hassan, Karnataka, India.
- **Occupation** : Writer, activist and lawyer
- **Reporter of the Newspaper** : *Lankesh Patrike*
- **Notable Work** : Heart Lamp (collection of short stories), translated by Deepa Bhashthi
- **Awards and recognition** : Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award (1999)
International Booker Prize (2025)
- **Adaptation in Film** : *Kari Naagaragalu* (story) into Kannada film *Hasina* by Girish Kasaravalli
- **Activism** : Joined the civil society group *Komu Souhardha Vedike*

16. In the short story *The Serang of Ranaganji*, Madge Jope-Smith mocked Hasan's appearance. Do you agree with Madge Jope-Smith's behaviour? Draft a write-up about the behaviour of Madge Jope-Smith. (4)

17. The following passage contains a few errors. Edit it.

I am not one of those extremist who must have a vehicle to every destination. I never goes out of my way, as it were, to avoid exercise. I take it as it comes and take it in good part. Those valetudinarians who is always chattering about it and indulging in it to excess are no reason for despising it. I am inclined for think that in moderation it is rather good for one, physically.

18. In the Namuana village of Fiji, there is a well-known tradition called the Turtle Calling Ritual, which is linked to a significant legend. Write a paragraph about a similar ritual practised in your locality and the story that accompanies it. (4)

19. Elaborate the idea conveyed in the following lines : (4)

If thou art worn and hard beset
With sorrows that thou wouldst forget,
If thou wouldst read a lesson, that will keep
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep,
Go to the woods and hills! No tears
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.

Q. No. 20 to 25 : Answer any five of the following questions. Each carries 6 scores.

(5 × 6 = 30)

20. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, holds the view that "I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice." Write a short essay on the topic of Gandhi's perspective on social justice and equality. (6)

21. In the short story *The Price of Flowers*, the character Gupta observes that superstition is not confined to India; it exists in societies around the world. Many people unknowingly succumb to its influence. You would like to inform one of the newspapers about this issue. Therefore, write a letter to the Editor of the newspaper requesting him/her to raise awareness about the harmful effects of superstition in our society. (6)

22. Imagine that the boy who asked questions to APJ Abdul Kalam became a reputable marine engineer later in his life. You would like to invite him to your school as part of the Science Fair. Draft an Email inviting him to your school. (6)

23. Cybercrimes are on the rise every day. The IT Club of your school organized a seminar focused on the topic *Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security*. Prepare a detailed programme report of the seminar based on the provided programme chart. (6)

Seminar Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security February 14, 2025 RK Z School, Kottayam	
Prayer	: School Choir
Welcome Speech	: Usha Kumari (School Principal)
Presidential Address	: John Peter (PTA President)
Inauguration	: Dr. Ahamed Razi (CI of Police, Cyber Cell)
Felicitations	: (1) Unnikrishnan R T (Computer Science Teacher) (2) Razia Sultana (Information Technology Teacher)
Paper Presentations	: (1) Mari Muthu Selvaraj (JS School, Thrissur) "Data Protection and Privacy" (2) Haseebudhin (Kairali School, Thiruvananthapuram) "Social Media and Online Content" (3) Caroline (XXY School, Malappuram) "Cyber Forensics" (4) Bhimrao (YPK School, Emankulam) "Identity and Access Management"
Moderator	: Sathyavathi (Secretary, IT Club)
Vote of Thanks	: Salim Ali (School Chairman)
	National Anthem

24. Imagine you are the reporter of a reputed channel. The channel has assigned you to report on the take off of the Le Horla parachute. Prepare a compelling live TV report for broadcast on the channel where you are currently working. (6)
25. In the story *Gooseberries*, Ivan Ivanich, a veterinary surgeon, tells the tale of his brother, Nicholai Ivanich. If you had the opportunity to meet Ivan Ivanich, what questions would you ask him ? Prepare an imaginary conversation that takes place between you and Ivan Ivanich. (6)

Q. No. 26 to 28 : Answer any two of the following questions. Each carries 8 scores.

(2 × 8 = 16)

26. As part of World Mental Health Day celebration on October 10, the Souhrida Club of your school is organizing a speech competition on the topic "The Impact of Mental Health on Self-Confidence." Imagine that you are one of the participants in this competition. Prepare a speech that you would deliver on this occasion. **(8)**

27. Read the following advertisement and prepare a job application letter and resume. **(8)**

WANTED

ENGLISH TEACHER

Post : English Teacher

Qualifications : BA, B.Ed.

Job Type : Full Time

Experience : 5 years experience as English Teacher

Requirements :

- Excellent communication skills
- Strong knowledge of English language and literature
- Ability to work with students of diverse backgrounds
- Proficiency in computer skills and educational technology

Salary : ₹ 60,000 per month

Apply to

The Chairman,
International School of English Studies,
Kathiresapuram,
Chennai,
Tamil Nadu,
PB NO : 95

28. Read the following poem and write a critical appreciation.

(8)

The Titanic

As she sped from dawn to gloaming, a palace upon the sea,
Did the waves from her proud bows foaming whisper what port should be?
That her maiden voyage was tending to a haven hushed and deep,
Where after the shock and the rending she should moor at the wharf of sleep?
Oh, her name shall be tale and token to all the ships that sail,
How her mighty heart was broken by blow of a crystal flail,
How in majesty still peerless her helpless head she bowed
And in light and music, fearless, plunged to her purple shroud.
Did gleams and dreams half-heeded, while the days so lightly ran,
Awaken the glory seeded from God in the soul of man?
For touched with a shining chrism, with love's fine grace imbued,
Men turned them to heroism as it were but habitude.
O midnight strange and solemn, when the icebergs stood at gaze,
Death on one pallid column, to watch our human ways,
And saw throned Death defeated by a greater lord than he,
Immortal Life who greeted home-comers from the sea.

Katharine Lee Bates
