

SY-223

Reg. No. :

Name :



SECOND YEAR HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION, MARCH 2026

Part – III

Time : 2½ Hours

ENGLISH LITERATURE

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.
- Certain sections of questions have choice. Follow the choice regulations.

Questions 1-4 : Fill in the blanks with suitable answers. Each carries 1 score.

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. _____ is a literary movement which championed and celebrated the uniqueness of black experience and heritage.
2. The screenplay of the movie *The Sixth Sense* is written by _____.
3. According to Stephen Leacock the rich suffer perpetually from _____.
4. _____ is a poem that portrays the loneliness, dejection and despondency of a woman through the image of rain.

Questions 5-8 : Attempt any 3 of the following questions. Each carries 4 scores.

(3 × 4 = 12)

5. *“Since Thursday last, the bare living-room
of my flat’s been occupied*

by a stranger from the streets, a light-limbed traveller.”

(a) What is the stranger referred to ? Which are the other inmates of the room ? (2)

(b) What makes it ‘a stranger from the streets’ ? (2)

6. *“Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn’t a scab or odd in his views,”*
- (a) How do we know that the Unknown Citizen satisfied his employers ? (2)
- (b) How did the Unknown Citizen prove that he wasn’t a scab ? (2)
7. *“... .. Anger, too, is dead
And why should memorials of what was far
From pleasant have the grace that helps us to forget ?*
- (a) Which memorials does the poet refer to ? (2)
- (b) What are poet’s objections against the display of these memorials ? (2)
8. *“to give her gods and her daughters
and daughter’s daughters basketfuls
of annual flower
and for one line of cousins
a dower of migraines in season.”*
- (a) What according to poet’s mother are the benefits of Champak trees ? (2)
- (b) Comment on the poetic expression ‘a dower of migraines’. (2)

Questions 9-14 : Attempt any 5 of the following questions. Each carries 4 scores.

(5 × 4 = 20)

9. The story ‘Doves on the Wing’ evokes laughter in the mind of the readers. Instead of feeling angry towards the thieves, readers feel pity towards them. Justify.
10. How does the story of ‘My Old Home’ highlight the helplessness of modern man who has to move away from his home ?

11. Attempt a paragraph on the significance of the Covent Garden scene in the play, *Pygmalion*.
12. What was the reason behind the rivalry between Dilshan and Deewar ?
13. Which are factors that create gender roles in a person's mind ?
14. How did English language help us in our freedom struggle ?

Questions 15-19 : Answer any 4 of the following in about 80 words. Each question carries 5 scores. (4 × 5 = 20)

15. Bring out the use of humour in 'Are the Rich Happy' by Stephen Leacock.
16. How does Mark Twain's account of the people of Azores reflect his prejudiced mindset ?
17. How does Bama depict the discrimination faced by Dalit people in her society ?
18. How does the story *Yzur* highlight the cruelty inflicted on animals in the name of scientific experimentation ?
19. Attempt a paragraph on the theme of the poem *The Wild Swans at Coole*.

Questions 20-23 : Answer any 3 of the following in not less than 150 words. Each question carries 8 scores. (3 × 8 = 24)

20. Trace the different stages of transformation in Griger Samsa's life.

(**Hints** : as salesman-physical transformation – reaction of the family – the managers visit – lonely life in his room – lodger's reaction Gretas' change – starvation and death)

21. Attempt a character sketch of Eliza Dolittle as revealed in the play 'Pygmalion'.

(**Hints** : The flower girl – Covent garden scene – Approaching Henry Higgins at 27A Wimpole Street – performance at Mrs. Higgins at home day – success at Ambassador's garden party – leaving 27 A Wimpole street – finally an independent woman)

22. How does the poem, Million Man March reflect the poet's deep antipathy towards the apartheid system ?

(**Hints** : Context of the poem – written as a March song – reminding the past – protesting against injustice – call for unity – exhortation to the Africans)

23. How does the birth of Christ become a hard and bitter agony for the Magi ?

(**Hints** : difficulties on the way – experience at the temperate valley – physical death and spiritual birth – alienation of the Magi)
