SECOND TERM SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT 2026-27

MODEL QUESTION PAPER

ENGLISH

Std: X SET 1 **Score: 80**

Cool-off time: 15 minutes **Time: 2½ Hours**

Instructions

- The first 15 minutes is cool-off time. Use it to read the questions and plan your answers.
- Answer according to the instructions and the score given for each question.
- For questions with a choice (A or B), answer only one.

Read the passage based on the story "A Piece of String" and answer questions 1 to 3. (3 × 1 = 3)

> It was market day at Goderville. Maître Hauchecorne, an old peasant from Bréauté, was walking slowly towards the town square when he noticed a little piece of string lying on the road. Being a true Norman, he believed that anything useful should be picked up, so he stooped painfully and took it. Just then he saw Maître Malandain, the harness-maker, standing at his door and watching him. The two had quarrelled long ago and still bore a grudge. Feeling ashamed to be seen picking up a bit of string from the mud, Hauchecorne quickly hid it and pretended to be searching for something else on the ground.

1. Where was Hauchecorne going? (1)

2. Why did Hauchecorne feel ashamed? (1)

3. What did Hauchecorne do after picking up the string? (1)

A. He threw it away. B. He showed it to Malandain.

C. He hid it and pretended to look for something else. D. He gave it to the mayor.

Read the passage based on the story "War" and answer questions 4 and 5. (2 × 1 = 2)

> In the crowded second-class carriage, the passengers spoke of nothing but the war. A husband and wife had boarded at dawn; their only son was leaving for the front. A stout, red-faced man declared loudly that his own son had died a hero, and that he did not wear mourning because the boy had died for his country. Everyone listened in silence, and some agreed with him. Then the woman, who had been sitting wrapped in a corner, turned and asked him softly, "Then... is your son really dead?" The man stared at her, and suddenly broke into harrowing, uncontrollable sobs.

4. Why was the woman so upset during the journey? (1)

5. Which of the following statements are true? (1)

(i) The stout man pretended he was not grieving.

(ii) The woman did not believe the stout man's words at all.

(iii) The woman's question made the man realise his loss.

(iv) All the passengers laughed at the stout man.

A. (i) and (iii) B. (ii) and (iv) C. (i) and (ii) D. (iii) and (iv)

6. Identify the noun phrase and the verb phrase in the sentence: "A stout, red-faced man declared loudly." (1)

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Read the lines from the poem "The Seedling" by Paul Laurence Dunbar and answer questions 7 to 10. **(4 × 1 = 4)**

As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:
"I am not so very robust,
But I'll do the best I can;"
And the seedling from that moment
His work of life began.

7. Where was the seedling lying? (1)

8. Which of the following statements are correct? (1)
(i) The seedling was strong and proud.
(ii) The seedling admitted its weakness.
(iii) The seedling decided to try its best.
(iv) The seedling refused to grow.
A. (i) and (iv) B. (ii) and (iii) C. (i) and (ii) D. (iii) and (iv)

9. Name the literary device used in "To itself it fell a-talking". (1)
A. Simile B. Metaphor C. Personification D. Alliteration

10. What quality of the seedling is revealed in these lines? (1)
A. Pride B. Laziness C. Modesty and determination D. Fear

11. (A) Prepare an appreciation of the poem "The Seedling", considering its theme, imagery, figures of speech and message. (5)

OR

(B) The song "Another Day in Paradise" makes us think about people we ignore. Write an appreciation of the song, focusing on its theme, the use of irony in its title and its relevance today. (5)

Read the passage and answer questions 12 to 15. **(4 × 1 = 4)**

Every winter, the mudflats at Kadalundi, where the Kadalundi river meets the Arabian Sea, come alive with thousands of visitors from faraway lands. Sandpipers, plovers, terns and gulls fly in from Siberia, Central Asia and Europe after crossing high mountains and wide seas. They feed on worms, small crabs and fish in the shallow water before returning in spring. In 2007, the area was declared Kerala's first community reserve, so that local people and the forest department protect it together. Bird lovers say that plastic waste and the cutting of mangroves are the biggest threats to this wetland.

12. Where is the Kadalundi community reserve? (1)

13. From where do the migratory birds come? (1)

14. Which of the following statements are NOT true according to the passage? (1)
(i) The birds come to Kadalundi in winter.
(ii) The birds stay at Kadalundi throughout the year.

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(iii) Local people help to protect the reserve.
(iv) Mangroves are a threat to the birds.
A. (i) and (iii) B. (ii) and (iv) C. (i) and (ii) D. (iii) and (iv)

15. Suggest one way to protect such wetlands. (1)

16. (A) You have read an extract from "Shakuntalam". Write a review of it, focusing on the setting, the characters, the theme and its relevance. (7)

OR

(B) Prepare a review of the story "War" by Luigi Pirandello. Consider the plot, the characters, the theme and its message to the present world. (7)

17. (A) Prepare a character sketch of Maître Hauchecorne in "A Piece of String". (6)

OR

(B) After reading "Trills and Thrills: Birdwatching in India", your class went on a birdwatching trip. Write a letter to your friend describing the experience. (6)

18. (A) The Nature Club of your school conducted a bird survey at a nearby wetland. Prepare a news report using the hints. (6)

Hints: GHSS Ponnani Nature Club – 40 students – Biyyam Kayal – 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. – 52 species recorded – Brahminy kite, purple heron, little cormorant – guidance by forest officials – plastic waste noted – awareness drive planned

OR

(B) Prepare a news report on a blood donation camp held in your school, using the hints. (6)
Hints: NSS unit – Blood Bank, District Hospital – 85 donors – teachers, parents, alumni – inaugurated by the Headmistress – certificates for donors – need for regular donation

19. (A) Prepare four short slogans for a campaign to protect wetlands and birds. (4)

OR

(B) The man in "War" tries to hide his grief behind words of pride. Is the story relevant today? Write your views in a paragraph. (4)

20. Read the sentence and frame questions as instructed. (4)

"Hauchecorne told the story of the string again and again to everyone he met in the market on Tuesday."
(Frame three Wh-questions and one Yes/No question.)

21. The Nature Club of your school is organising a birdwatching camp. Prepare a notice. (4)

22. Prepare a profile of Dr. Salim Ali using the details given. (6)

Born: 12 November 1896, Bombay – Indian ornithologist and naturalist – known as the "Birdman of India" – first systematic bird surveys across India – "The Book of Indian Birds" (1941) – autobiography "The Fall of a Sparrow" (1985) – Padma Bhushan (1958), Padma Vibhushan (1976) – helped to save Bharatpur bird sanctuary and Silent Valley – died: 20 June 1987

Read the news item and answer questions 23 to 26. **(4 × 1 = 4)**

Thrissur, Nov 18: Class IX student Ananya K. of Government Model HSS won the first prize in the state-level Science Fair held at Thrissur. Her model, a low-cost water filter made from coconut shell charcoal, sand and clay pots, was praised by

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the judges. Ananya said the idea came after she saw her village struggling for clean water during the floods. She received a trophy and a cash award of ₹10,000.

23. Who won the first prize? (1)

24. What was her model? (1)

25. What made her think of the idea? (1)

26. Which of the following statements are correct? (1)

(i) The fair was held at Thrissur.
(ii) Ananya studies in Class X.
(iii) The filter was made of low-cost materials.
(iv) She received a cash award.

A. (i), (iii) and (iv) B. (ii) and (iii) C. (i) and (ii) D. (ii), (iii) and (iv)

27. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions. (3)

Hauchecorne was walking (a) _____ the square when he saw the string lying (b) _____ the road. He picked it (c) _____ and put it (d) _____ his pocket. Later he was called (e) _____ the mayor's office. He was accused (f) _____ stealing a pocketbook.

28. Fill in the blanks with suitable phrasal verbs from the box. (4)

look after, give up, set out, turn down

a) The birdwatchers _____ early in the morning.
b) Never _____ your dreams, however hard life is.
c) The forest guards _____ the injured birds.
d) He _____ the offer because he wanted to stay in his village.

29. Choose the correct words from the brackets. (2)

a) The seedling kept growing _____ it was weak. (because / though)
b) _____ the father _____ the mother could sleep that night. (Neither... nor / Either... or)
c) Hurry up, _____ you will miss the train. (or / and)
d) Each of the birds _____ a ring on its leg. (has / have)

30. Report the following dialogue. (2)

The mayor said to Hauchecorne, "Did you pick up a pocketbook this morning?"
Hauchecorne said, "I picked up only a piece of string."

31. Complete the conversation suitably. (4)

Anu: You look worried, Arun. (a) _____?
Arun: My grandfather is in hospital. He had a fall yesterday.
Anu: Oh! I'm sorry to hear that. He is recovering, (b) _____?
Arun: Yes, the doctor says he will be fine in a week.
Anu: That's good. If you need any help, (c) _____.
Arun: Thank you. You are a real friend.
Anu: Don't worry. (d) _____.

32. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words given in brackets. (3)

Migratory birds (a) _____ (travel) thousands of kilometres every year. They (b) _____ (guide) by the Sun and the stars. Many of them (c) _____ (reach) Kerala in October last year. A group of students (d) _____ (watch) them when a flock suddenly rose into the sky. Such journeys (e) _____ (be) truly amazing. We must protect the places where they (f) _____ (rest).

33. Match the specialists with what they study. (2)

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A	B
a) Ornithologist	(i) Plants
b) Botanist	(ii) Birds
c) Entomologist	(iii) Stars and planets
d) Astronomer	(iv) Insects

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