SECOND TERM SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT 2026-27

MODEL QUESTION PAPER

ENGLISH

Std: X SET 2 **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 "Shakuntalam" and answer questions 1 to 3. (3 × 1 = 3)

> Chasing a deer, King Dushyanta drove his chariot deep into the forest until he reached the edge of a hermitage. A hermit raised his hands and begged him not to kill the deer, because it belonged to the ashram. The king lowered his bow at once. Leaving his weapons and royal ornaments behind, he entered the grove humbly. There he saw three young women watering the plants with small pitchers. One of them, Shakuntala, spoke to the creepers and young trees as if they were her sisters. The king, hiding behind a tree, was charmed by her grace and simplicity.

1. Why did the king lower his bow? (1)

2. Why did the king leave his weapons and ornaments outside? (1)

3. How did Shakuntala treat the plants? (1)

A. As her servants B. As her sisters C. As objects of worship D. As her property

Read the passage based on "A Piece of String" and answer questions 4 and 5. (2 × 1 = 2)

> At the mayor's office, Hauchecorne was told that Malandain had seen him pick up the lost pocketbook. The old man was shocked. He pulled out the piece of string from his pocket and swore that it was all he had picked up. Nobody believed him. The next day the pocketbook was returned by a farm-hand, yet people only winked and said that a clever rogue had sent it back through someone else. Hauchecorne kept repeating his story, and each time he did, people laughed more.

4. What was Hauchecorne accused of? (1)

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

(i) The pocketbook was never found.
(ii) Hauchecorne showed the string as proof of his innocence.
(iii) People believed him after the pocketbook was returned.
(iv) Repeating his story made people mock him more.

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: "The old man was shocked." (1)

Read the lines from the poem by Emily Dickinson and answer questions 7 to 10. (4 × 1 = 4)

> "Hope" is the thing with feathers –

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That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

7. To what is hope compared in these lines? (1)

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

(i) Hope lives in the soul.
(ii) Hope sings only on happy days.
(iii) Hope does not need words to sing.
(iv) Hope soon stops singing.

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

9. Name the figure of speech used in "'Hope' is the thing with feathers". (1)

A. Simile B. Metaphor C. Alliteration D. Hyperbole

10. Which line shows that hope is never-ending? (1)

11. (A) The seedling in Dunbar's poem and the hope in Dickinson's lines both give us courage. Compare the two in a short write-up. (5)

OR

(B) Write an appreciation of the song "Another Day in Paradise", focusing on its theme, the contrast it draws between the comfortable and the poor, and its message. (5)

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

The Great Indian Hornbill is one of the largest forest birds of the Western Ghats. With its huge yellow bill and loud wing-beats, it is easy to recognise. Hornbills nest in holes of tall old trees. The female seals herself inside the hole with mud, leaving only a narrow slit, and the male feeds her and the chicks for weeks. Because they eat fruits and drop the seeds far away, hornbills are called the "farmers of the forest". Cutting down tall trees leaves them with no place to nest. The Great Hornbill is the state bird of Kerala.

12. Where do hornbills nest? (1)

13. Why are hornbills called the "farmers of the forest"? (1)

14. Which of the following statements are NOT true? (1)

(i) The male feeds the female during nesting.
(ii) Hornbills nest on the ground.
(iii) Cutting tall trees is a threat to hornbills.
(iv) The hornbill has a small black bill.

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

15. Which bird is the state bird of Kerala? (1)

16. (A) Write a review of the story "A Piece of String" by Guy de Maupassant, considering the plot, the main character, the theme and its relevance. (7)

OR

(B) Write a review of the story "War", focusing on the setting, the characters, the turning point of the story and its message. (7)

17. (A) Prepare a character sketch of Shakuntala as presented in the extract you have read. (6)

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OR

(B) Imagine you are Hauchecorne. Write a diary entry on the night after you were accused at the mayor's office. (6)

18. (A) Prepare a news report using the hints. (6)

Hints: students of Class X, GHSS Thirunelly – injured hornbill found near school – informed forest department – first aid by veterinary doctor – bird released after a week – Headmaster praises students – forest officer's message on protecting trees

OR

(B) Prepare a news report on a book fair held in your school, using the hints. (6)

Hints: Vidyarangam Kala Sahitya Vedi – 3 days – 2,000 books – stalls of six publishers – discount for students – inaugurated by a local writer – reading competition

19. (A) Prepare a poster for the observance of World Wetlands Day (2 February). (4)

OR

(B) "Kindness can save humanity even in times of war." Write a paragraph on this idea, based on the stories you have read. (4)

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

"Shakuntala watered the young plants in the hermitage every morning with great love."
(Frame three Wh-questions and one Yes/No question.)

21. The Literary Club of your school is going to be inaugurated. Prepare an invitation for the function. (4)

22. Prepare a profile of Guy de Maupassant using the details given. (6)

Born: 5 August 1850, Normandy, France – French writer – disciple of Gustave Flaubert – master of the short story – about 300 short stories, six novels – "Boule de Suif" (1880) made him famous – other works: "The Necklace", "A Piece of String" – realistic picture of ordinary people – died: 6 July 1893, Paris

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

> NOTICE – The Energy Club of St. Mary's HSS will conduct an "Energy Saving Week" from 14 to 20 December. Students will visit 200 houses near the school to explain how to cut electricity bills by using LED lamps and star-rated appliances. A poster competition will be held on 18 December. Interested students may give their names to the club secretary before 10 December. – Secretary, Energy Club

23. Who is organising the programme? (1)

24. How many houses will the students visit? (1)

25. On which day is the poster competition? (1)

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

(i) The programme lasts for a week.
(ii) Names must be given before 10 December.
(iii) The programme is about saving water.
(iv) Students will explain the use of LED lamps.

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

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

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The king came (a) _____ the hermitage (b) _____ his chariot. He stood (c) _____ a tree and watched the girls. Shakuntala was busy (d) _____ watering the plants. She was fond (e) _____ the deer. Soon the king fell (f) _____ love with her.

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

carry on, put off, look for, take after

a) The meeting was _____ because of heavy rain.
b) The children went into the forest to _____ the lost calf.
c) She _____ her mother in kindness.
d) In spite of the difficulties, they decided to _____ their work.

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

a) He was tired, _____ he continued walking. (but / so)
b) _____ it was raining, the match was cancelled. (Since / Unless)
c) Neither the king nor his soldiers _____ the hermitage. (was disturbing / were disturbing)
d) The hermitage was peaceful, _____ it? (wasn't / isn't)

30. Report the following dialogue. (2)

The hermit said to the king, "Please do not kill this deer."
The king said, "I will not harm any creature in your hermitage."

31. Complete the conversation suitably. (4)

Teacher: Rahul, you are late again. (a) _____?
Rahul: Sorry, Madam. The bus broke down on the way.
Teacher: You could have informed us, (b) _____?
Rahul: My phone had no charge, Madam.
Teacher: All right. (c) _____ next time.
Rahul: Yes, Madam. (d) _____.

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

Guy de Maupassant (a) _____ (write) about three hundred short stories. His stories (b) _____ (read) all over the world even today. He (c) _____ (be) a student of Flaubert, who (d) _____ (teach) him to observe life closely. When he died in 1893, he (e) _____ (become) one of the greatest short story writers. Readers still (f) _____ (enjoy) his stories.

33. Write the one-word substitutes. (2)

a) A place where birds are protected – _____
b) A person who writes plays – _____
c) A story of a person's life written by himself – _____
d) Animals that are active at night – _____

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