



नामांक				Roll No.		

Question Booklet No.

No. of Questions – 18

No. of Printed Pages – 11

SS-20-Eng. Lit.

SENIOR SECONDARY EXAMINATION, 2026
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time : 3 Hours 15 Minutes

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXAMINEES :

- 1) Candidates must write his/her Roll No. on the question paper.
- 2) **All** the questions are compulsory.
- 3) For questions having more than one part, the answers to those parts are to be written together in continuity.
- 4) Write answers of all the questions in your answer-book only.
- 5) Write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.



SECTION – A

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : [8]

They walked through the new capital, alone and from a far country, yes, although their own lands were only a few hundred miles perhaps from this very street upon which they now walked. But to them it was very far. Their eyes were the eyes of those who have been taken suddenly and by some unaccountable force from the world they have always known and always thought safe until this time. They who had been accustomed only to country roads and fields, walked now along the proud street of the new capital, their feet treading upon the new concrete side-walk, and although the street was full of things they had never seen before, so that there were even automobiles and such things of which they had never even heard, still they looked at nothing, but passed in a dream, seeing nothing.

There were several hundreds of them passing at this moment. If they did not look at anything nor at anyone, neither did any look at them. The city was full of refugees, many thousands of them, fed after a fashion, clothed somehow, sheltered in mats in great camps outside the city wall. At any hour of the day lines of ragged men and women and a few children could be seen making their way towards the camp, and if any city-dweller noticed them it was to think with increased bitterness :

‘More refugees will there never be an end to them ? We will all starve trying to feed them even a little.’



This bitterness, which is the bitterness of fear, made small shopkeepers bawl out rudely to the many beggars who came hourly to beg at the doors, and it made men ruthless in paying small fares to the rickshaw pullers, of which there were ten times as many as could be used, because the refugees were trying to earn something thus. Even the usual pullers of rickshaws, who followed this as their profession, cursed the refugees because, being starving they would pull for anything given them, and so fares were low for all, and all suffered. With the city full of refugees, then, begging at every door, swarming into every unskilled trade and service, lying dead on the streets at every frozen dawn, why should one look at this fresh horde coming in now at twilight of winter's day ?

But these were no common men and women, no riff-raff from some community, always poor and easily starving in a flood time. No, these were men and women of which any nation might have been proud. It could be seen they were all from one region, for they wore garments woven out of the same dark blue cotton stuff, plain and cut in an old-fashioned way, the sleeves long and the coats long and full.

- i) About what the refugees had never even heard ? [1]
- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| A) Country roads | B) Fields |
| C) Automobiles | D) All of the above |
- ii) At what time the lines of ragged men and women could be seen in the city ? [1]
- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| A) At dawn | B) At night |
| C) At noon | D) At any hour of the day |



- iii) The city dwellers notice refugees with [1]
A) bitterness B) love
C) sympathy D) empathy
- iv) Fill in the blank from the passage : [1]
But these were no common men and women, no riff-raff from _____ .
- v) How did the local inhabitants feel about all the refugees in the city ? [1]
- vi) Why did the refugees look at nothing and pass as in a dream ? [1]
- vii) What showed that the refugees were all from one region ? [1]
- viii) Find the word from the passage which is opposite of “Sweetness”. [1]
2. Read the given poem carefully and answer the questions that follow : [8]

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise :
If you can dream and not make dreams your master;
If you can think and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by Knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop build'em up with worn-out tools :



- i) “If you can keep your head when all about you _____ blaming it on you”.
The poet asks to keep your head [1]
A) stand straight
B) stand proudly
C) remain calm and composed
D) take care of your head so that it doesn’t get hurt
- ii) According to the poet to whom you should trust when all men doubt you ? [1]
A) Your friend B) Your relative
C) No one D) Yourself
- iii) What should not be made your masters ? [1]
A) Your dreams B) Your thoughts
C) Fools D) The haters
- iv) Fill in the blank from the poem : [1]
And treat those two imposters _____ .
- v) How should you treat Triumph and Disaster ? [1]
- vi) What do you understand by “Twisted by Knaves to make a trap for fools” ? [1]
- vii) What should you do when you are being hated ? [1]
- viii) Write the word from the poem which is opposite of “Love”. [1]

SECTION – B

3. Write an essay in about **150** words on the given topic. [5]

“Importance of Discipline in Student Life”

OR

“Benefits of Morning Walk”



4. You are Manish/Manisha of Govt. Sr. Sec. School Kota. You visited a slum area in your city where the people suffered a great loss of life and property in a massive fire. The students of your school rendered their support to the victims. Write a report in about 150 words to be published in your school magazine on : [5]
“A Fire in a Slum”

OR

You are Ravi/Ravina of class XII of Govt. Sr. Sec. School Sikar. Write an article in about 150 words to be published in your school magazine on :
“Traditional Games are better than On-line Games”

SECTION – C

5. Define **any four** literary terms in about **30** words **each** : [4×2=8]
- i) Stream of Consciousness
 - ii) Interior Monologue
 - iii) Anglo-Indian Literature
 - iv) Indo-Anglian Literature
 - v) Romanticism
 - vi) Modernism.
6. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : [6]
- The cheerful Cuban Volunteers, with the help of the fire department, picked up the debris in less than six hours, and sealed off the gate to the sea and installed another, and everything returned to normal. During the morning nobody worried about the car encrusted in the wall, for people assumed it was one of those that had been parked on the pavement. But when the crane lifted it out of its setting, the body of a woman was found secured behind the steering wheel by a seat belt. The blow had been so brutal that not a single one of her bones was left whole. Her face was destroyed, her boots had been ripped apart, and her clothes were in shreds. She wore a gold ring shaped like a serpent, with emerald eyes. The police established that she was the housekeeper for the new Portuguese ambassador and his wife.



- i) Who helped the fire department to pick up the debris ? [1]
A) The Indian Volunteers B) The Cuban Volunteers
C) The American Volunteers D) None of the above
- ii) The time taken to pick up the debris was less than [1]
A) Two hours B) Four hours
C) Nine hours D) Six hours
- iii) The body found in the car encrusted in the wall was of [1]
A) A man B) A policeman
C) A woman D) A volunteer
- iv) What was special about the gold ring that she wore ? [1]
v) What did the police establish about the body found in the car ? [1]
vi) Fill in the blank. [1]
Not a single one of her bones was _____.

7. Answer the following question in about **80** words : [4]
Draw a character sketch of Captain Hagberd. *(Tomorrow)*

OR

Draw a character sketch of Frau Frieda. *(I Sell My Dreams)*

8. Answer the following question in about **30** words : [2]
Where was Eveline planning to go ? *(Eveline)*

9. Read the extract of the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow : [6]

When we were children
My brother and I
And always playing on the sands
Drawing birds and animals



The trees like tassels hit-and-swung-
There seemed to rise a tune
From miniature creatures
Accompanying the sun-
Far psalteries of summer-
Enamoring the ear
They never yet did satisfy-
Remotest – when most fair
The sun shone whole at intervals-

- i) What imagery does the poet use in the line “the trees like tassels hit and swung” ? [1]
A) Auditory imagery (sound) B) Visual imagery (sight)
C) Tactile imagery (touch) D) Olfactory imagery (smell)
- ii) What does “psalteries” refer to in the context of the poem ? [1]
A) A type of tree B) Miniature creatures
C) A summer flower D) A musical instrument
- iii) Who is the poet of the poem ? [1]
A) Emily Dickinson B) Kamala Das
C) John Milton D) William Blake
- iv) What do you understand by ‘psalteries of summer’ ? [1]
- v) In which lines are creatures attributed with human qualities ? [1]
- vi) They never yet did satisfy - Remotest _____. [1]



10. Answer the following question in about **80** words : [4]

Comment on the use of the image of the shadows for the idea that the poet wants to convey ? *(A Lecture upon the Shadow)*

OR

How does Milton describe Shakespeare as the source of inspiration for all succeeding generations of poets ? *(On Shakespeare - 1630)*

11. Answer the following question in about **30** words : [2]

What does a person do when he is in distress ? *(The Divine Image)*

12. Answer the following question in about **60** words : [3]

How does a novel reflect the wholeness of a human being ? *(Why the Novel Matters)*

OR

What are the pitfalls that the writer of science fiction mystery must guard against ? *(On Science Fiction)*

13. Answer the following question in about **30** words : [2]

What are the two ways in which individual freedom gets restricted ? *(Freedom)*

14. Answer the following questions in about **60** words : [3]

Why does something so ordinary and common place as giving water to a wayfarer become so significant to Prakriti ? *(Chandalika)*

OR

How genuine is the love that Manjula expresses for her sister ? *(Broken Images)*

15. Answer the following question in about **30** words : [2]

What is Manjula accused for ? *(Broken Images)*



- 16 Answer the following question in about **80** words : [4]
Explain the proverb. “Don’t probe too far into the origin of saints and rivers”.
(A Tiger for Malgudi)

OR

What changes do you see in the character of the tiger after meeting the master ?
(A Tiger for Malgudi)

17. Answer the following question in about **30** words : [2]
Why do human beings suffer according to the master ? (A Tiger for Malgudi)

18. Choose the correct option of the following questions : [6×1=6]

- i) The central character of the text “A Tiger for Malgudi” is [1]
A) The Master B) The Tiger
C) The Captain D) The Collector
- ii) Who is the owner of the circus ? [1]
A) Raja B) The Clerk
C) Alphonse D) The Captain
- iii) Name the filmmaker who is always in search of a unique idea in the text ‘A Tiger for Malgudi’. [1]
A) Jaggu B) Rita
C) Madan D) Alphones
- iv) Who saved the tiger from the hunter ? [1]
A) Madan B) The Master
C) Jaggu D) The Clerk
- v) What was the name of the circus ? [1]
A) The Tiger Circus B) Master Circus
C) Grand Malgudi Circus D) Raja Circus
- vi) Where did the Captain shift his circus after Dadhaji’s death ? [1]
A) Malgudi B) Filmcity
C) Madras D) Nearest town



DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING HERE