

## ELECTIVE ENGLISH

*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time Allotted: Three Hours*

*Reading Time: Additional Fifteen Minutes*

### Instructions to Candidates

1. You are allowed an **additional fifteen minutes** for **only** reading the question paper.
2. You must **NOT** start writing during reading time.
3. This question paper has **8 printed pages**.
4. It is divided into **two sections** and has **seven questions** in all.
5. **Question 1** has **twenty subparts**. **Any ten subparts on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
6. While attempting **Multiple Choice Questions** in **Section A**, you are required to **write only ONE option as the answer**.
7. **Question 2** has **ten subparts** which are short answer questions. **Any five subparts on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
8. **Section B** has **five questions** which are long answer questions. Each question carries 20 marks. **Any three questions on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
9. The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [ ].

### Instruction to Supervising Examiner

1. Kindly read **aloud** the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the examination hall.

## SECTION A – 20 MARKS

(Attempt any ten subparts on any three textbooks of Question 1 and any five subparts of Question 2)

### Question 1

Choose the most appropriate option from among those given for *any ten* of the questions or statements from **any three** of the prescribed textbooks.

#### TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – *Harper Lee*

- (i) What does Scout's fight with Francis reveal about her character? [1]
- (a) She is quick to anger without reason.
  - (b) She is fiercely loyal to her father.
  - (c) She does not care about her family's opinions.
- (ii) Why does Jem run back and fetch his pants from the Radley yard? [1]
- (a) Jem does not want his father to know they did what they should not have.
  - (b) Jem wants to prove he is brave enough to face Nathan Radley.
  - (c) Jem is humiliated at the tongue-lashing Atticus gives for their night adventure.
- (iii) Why does Atticus choose to represent Tom? [1]
- (a) He needs the money and the reputation.
  - (b) He is a champion of the black people.
  - (c) He has a strong sense of justice.
- (iv) What does the following statement by Miss Gates reveal? [1]
- "There are no better people in the world than the Jews, and why Hitler doesn't think so is a mystery to me."
- (a) Her opposition to prejudice is as strong as Miss Maudie's.
  - (b) There are still some people in Maycomb with integrity of character.
  - (c) She shares the hypocrisy and racial prejudice of much of Maycomb.

### THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

- (v) Read the two statements given below and choose the correct option from the ones that follow: [1]

**Statement 1:** Fokir's character is essential for illustrating the resilience and adaptability of the local population in the face of natural disasters.

**Statement 2:** The interactions between Piyali, Kanai, and Fokir highlight the novel's exploration of social hierarchies and power dynamics.

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.  
(b) Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.  
(c) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
- (vi) What did Piya associate the Bengali language with? [1]  
(a) Love  
(b) Violence  
(c) Knowledge
- (vii) Which translation was more than a professional job for Kanai? [1]  
(a) The translation of Fokir's chant  
(b) The translation of Rilke from Nirmal's diary  
(c) The translation of the myth during the Bon Bibi performance
- (viii) Why was Nirmal filled with regret when he retired in 1978? [1]  
(a) Because he had done nothing in his life  
(b) Because his marriage had obviously been a mistake  
(c) Because he was never given the opportunity to establish a trust

### A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

- (ix) Whose signature did Nora forge? [1]  
(a) Her father's  
(b) Her husband's  
(c) Her blackmailer's

- (x) What does Nora mean when she says, "I have to stand quite alone if I am to understand myself and everything about me." [1]
- (a) She feels isolated and misunderstood by others.
  - (b) She is expressing her long-standing impatience with her family.
  - (c) She is reflecting on the need for introspection and truth.
- (xi) Which of the following lines from the play reveals Dr. Rank's love for Nora? [1]
- (a) "Oh, you'd soon get over it.....those who go away are quickly forgotten."
  - (b) "Well, at any rate you know that I'm at your service – body and soul."
  - (c) "You're a mystery to me. I've sometimes thought you'd as soon be with me as with Helmer."
- (xii) Which of the following statements is NOT true about Nora? [1]
- (a) She is sometimes disobedient.
  - (b) She is afraid her father will learn her secret.
  - (c) She says she is no more than a doll.

### **DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller***

- (xiii) What quality does Charley possess that Willy lacks? [1]
- (a) Tendency to cheat at cards
  - (b) Practical realism
  - (c) Skilfulness with his hands
- (xiv) Why does Biff say, "Pop, I'm a dime a dozen, and so are you" ? [1]
- (a) He thinks the Loman family views him as a failure.
  - (b) He is angry with his father for embarrassing him in public.
  - (c) He attacks Willy's fondest belief to expose the truth.
- (xv) Who says, "Never leave a job till you're finished – remember that" ? [1]
- (a) Willy
  - (b) Charley
  - (c) Ben

- (xvi) What does the sound of the flute in the background symbolise? [1]
- (a) Willy's future aspirations
  - (b) Willy's connection to his father
  - (c) Willy's relationship with his wife

**NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – Ed. Chris Woodhead**

- (xvii) What does Thetis **NOT** look for in the shield in W.H. Auden's poem *The Shield of Achilles*? [1]
- The Shield of Achilles?*
- (a) Children
  - (b) Sacrifice
  - (c) Dance
- (xviii) What does the title of the poem *Discord in Childhood* suggest? [1]
- (a) Lack of quality
  - (b) Lack of harmony
  - (c) Lack of maturity
- (xix) Which image from Seamus Heaney's poem *At a Potato Digging* shows mass suffering? [1]
- (a) Petrified heart of drills
  - (b) Processional stooping through the turf
  - (c) Beaks of famine snipped at guts
- (xx) The description of a fox entering the hole at the end of Ted Hughes' poem *The Thought-Fox* makes use of \_\_\_\_\_. [1]
- (a) metaphor
  - (b) apostrophe
  - (c) oxymoron

## Question 2

Briefly answer **any five** of the following questions from **any three** of the prescribed textbooks.

### **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – Harper Lee**

- (i) State *any two* points that Atticus explains about the jury system before Jem and Scout. [2]
- (ii) What is the first thing Aunt Alexandra tells Scout to do when she comes to stay with the family? Why does she come to stay with them? [2]

### **THE HUNGRY TIDE: Amitav Ghosh**

- (iii) Bring out *any two* points of significance of Bon Bibi's story in the context of *The Hungry Tide*? [2]
- (iv) What is the reason for Piya's return to Lusibari in the end? What hint do readers get of her feelings? [2]

### **A DOLL'S HOUSE: Henrik Ibsen**

- (v) How can the Christmas tree be interpreted symbolically in the play? [2]
- (vi) What made Mrs Linde end her relationship earlier with Nils Krogstad despite their love? [2]

### **DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Arthur Miller**

- (vii) What is the significance of Linda's words at the end, "We're free...."? [2]
- (viii) What made Willy sleep till ten on a Tuesday morning as seen in the beginning of Act II? [2]

### **NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – Ed. Chris Woodhead**

- (ix) What quality of human beings is highlighted in W.H. Auden's *Musee des Beaux Arts*? [2]
- (x) What do the autumn apples suggest in D.H. Lawrence's poem *The Ship of Death*? [2]

## SECTION B – 60 MARKS

Attempt *three* questions from Section B on *any three* out of the five prescribed textbooks.

### TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – *Harper Lee*

#### Question 3

- (i) With reference to the role of Boo Radley in the novel, evaluate if Boo can be considered the hero of the novel. Support your opinion with suitable evidence from the text. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
- (a) Scout's observations on Mayella Ewell during Mayella's testimony [10]
- (b) Judge Taylor [10]

### THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

#### Question 4

- (i) Elaborate how Amitav Ghosh uses flashback as a narrative technique. How does this technique affect you as a reader? [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
- (a) Piya's memories of childhood [10]
- (b) Tutul [10]

### A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

#### Question 5

- (i) Critically analyse the internal and external conflicts in Ibsen's play. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
- (a) Gender roles and expectations portrayed in the play, citing three distinct examples from the text. [10]
- (b) Secrets in the play [10]

## DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

### Question 6

- (i) Willy dies in more ways than one. Comment on the 'death' of this salesman with suitable substantiation from the play. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Linda as Willy's 'foundation' [10]  
(b) Willy's skill with his hands [10]

## NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – *Ed. Chris Woodhead*

### Question 7

- (i) How does D.H. Lawrence use imagery and symbolism to convey the theme of mortality in the poem *The Ship of Death*? [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) The images in Edward Thomas' poem *Beauty*. [10]  
(b) The scenes Thetis expected to see on the shield in Auden's poem *The Shield of Achilles* and their significance. [10]