

SECOND TERM EXAMINATION 2025-2026
STANDARD - X
SUBJECT - ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TIME: 2 HRS.

MARKS: 80

1. Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
4. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].
5. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

- a) Write an original short story that begins with the words:
"It was raining hard that night. In my hurry to get into the house, I did not notice the black car parked across the road. I realised something was wrong when....."
....."
- b) Narrate an incident from your own experience when you helped a friend who was in trouble. Explain what happened. What did you do to make the situation better?
- c) 'More collaboration, less competition is the need of the hour.' Express your views either for or against this statement.
- d) You had been waiting outside the examination hall. Describe what you saw and the sounds you heard when you arrived at the place. What were your feelings? Describe how the same changed once you entered the hall and examination started.

- e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

(Don't spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select any one of the following.

[10]

- Many areas near your school have been affected by floods. As a President of your school's social service club, Write a letter to the Mayor of your city, telling him/her what you plan to do for the relief of the victims and suggesting ways in which you can combine with other organisations to bring about better distribution of relief items.
- You recently read an interesting book that impacted you deeply. Write a letter to your friend, highlighting the parts that impressed you. Explain two ways in which you would like to make changes in your behaviour or actions based on what you have read.

Question 3

- The Residents Welfare Association of your colony is conducting a Charity Drive to build a Night Shelter for homeless people in the open ground outside your colony. Write a notice to be put up in the local

Supermarket of your colony, requesting the manager to donate money for the cause [5]

- b) Write an email to the NRI who has written asking his/her help for organising the NRI shelter for homeless people [5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

He would have gone on worrying and worrying in this way if an unexpected distraction had not arrived in the form of a heavily loaded car bumping over the grassy bank, dodging between the coconut trees and raising a cloud of dust in the narrow path before it came to a standstill in front of Mon Repos, the white bungalow that stood empty most of the year.

It was the de Silvas, the family that came from Bombay to spend an occasional holiday in it and bring it suddenly to life for few days. They had bought Mon Repos from the Vakils, who had been one of the first Bombay architects to build holiday cottages on the Thul beach.

But, they had grown too old and frail to come often, and after the house has stood empty for several years, suddenly the De Silvas, who were young and energetic and seemed heartily to enjoy life on the beach. Whenever they came, life changed for the family, and the little hut, too. Immediately, there was a hubbub, all kinds of excitement and expectations, and of course, work to be done, employment to be had and wages.

Hari, Bela and Kamal stood by their door under the fragrant tree, tensed with excitement, watching and holding Pinto back as he barked at the unfamiliar sight of a car and stranger till his voice was quite hoarse. There was a commotion in the marshy creek that separated the hut from the house, too- herons, egrets, kingfishers and moorhens all flapping into the dense greenery of the pandanus, the casuarina and the bhindi trees for shelter.

They said that they had a house in the hills near Pondicherry. He
asked:

Hunh- who would live here, if he had a house in the hills?
Hari scoffed.

But, look how much luggage they've brought. It can't be
useful for a few days, Bella said, and it was true that an
unbelievable number of boxes and bags and trunks were
being taken out of the car, out of the boot and off the luggage
carrier, so that anyone would have to guess they had come to
stay forever.

(i) For each word given below, choose the correct
meaning as used in the passage from the options
provided: [3]

- 1. distraction
 - a) disapproval
 - b) focus
 - c) diversion
 - d) indirection
- 2. frail
 - a) weak
 - b) hygienic
 - c) strong
 - d) durable

(ii) Which word in the passage is opposite of the
word 'dense'?

- a) stupid
- b) very thick
- c) a kind of tree
- d) thin

(B) Answer the following questions briefly in your own
words:

- i) Who were the 'aunties' [2]
- ii) Why was the house more suited to the De Silvas? [2]
- iii) Who was Puro? [1]
- iv) What effect did the noise have on the natural
surroundings? [2]
- v) Drawing from Hari's answer to Bella's question, what
opinion does Hari have of Bombay? [2]

(C) In not more than 50 words, describe how the arrival of
the De Silvas changed life for the family in the little hut. [8]

Question 5

- (i) Fill in each of the number blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Example: (0) spent

Ibrahim ibn Adham was a prince of a small kingdom in Persia. He was very pious and ...1... (spend) many hours every day in prayer in a beautiful ...2... (bejewel) mosque in his palace. One day, as he was ...3... (pray), he ...4... (hear) a loud thumping sound on his roof. It ...5... (sound) like the clattering of horses' hooves! ...6... (rush) out, he looked up at the roof, and sure enough, there ...7... (be) his palace guards-twenty men on horseback.

"What on earth are you doing up there?" Ibrahim shouted. "Your Majesty," the captain of the guard yelled back, "we are searching for our camels that...8... (wander) away." "But why are you looking for camels on the roof?" asked the prince. "We are only following Your Majesty's example; you strive to seek God while living in the luxuries of a royal palace," ...9... (come) the reply.

- (ii) Fill in each blank with appropriate word. [4]

- (a) The mouse crept stealthily _____ the cheese.
(b) She is blind _____ the faults of her husband.
(c) The theory exam was followed _____ a group discussion.
(d) The curious child eagerly begged _____ an answer to the riddle.
(e) He was bent _____ coming first in the examination.
(f) He agreed to carry _____ the manager's orders.
(g) The sports teacher was taken _____ when he heard how enthusiastic the team was.
(h) She is the smarter _____ the two.

- (iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option. [4]

1. **Stay still. We cannot take your photograph otherwise.**
- Stay still, else we cannot take your photograph otherwise.
 - Stay still because we can take your photograph otherwise.
 - ~~c.~~ Unless you stay still we cannot take your photograph.
 - If you stay still we cannot take your photograph.
2. **The debating teams were very happy. They were declared joint champions.**
- The debating teams were very happy as they have been declared joint champions.
 - The debating teams are very happy as they are declared joint champions.
 - ~~c.~~ The debating teams were very happy as they had been declared joint champions.
 - ~~d.~~ The debating teams will be very happy as they will be declared joint champions.
3. **He fled somewhere. His pursuers could not follow him.**
- He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.
 - He pursued somewhere his followers could not flee.
 - He fled somewhere when his pursuers could not follow him.
 - ~~d.~~ He fled where his pursuers cannot follow him.
4. **We placed our order late. We received the food on time.**
- Despite placed our order late, the food was received on time.
 - ~~b.~~ Despite placing our order late, we received the food on time.
 - Despite we placed our order late, the food was received on time.
 - Despite of us placing our order late, we receiving the food on time.

1) Read each sentence with its instructions. Choose the correct answer from the options provided beneath each sentence:

1. **There is nothing brighter than hope.**
(Begin: Is there?)
 - a. Is there anything brighter than hope?
 - b. Is there nothing brighter than hope?
 - c. Is there anything brighter than hope?
 - d. Is there something brighter than hope?
2. **It is a good habit to maintain a diary.**
(End:.... good habit)
 - a. Maintaining a diary may be a good habit.
 - b. Maintaining a diary could be a good habit.
 - c. Maintaining a diary is a good habit.
 - d. Maintaining a diary shall be a good habit.
3. **Nithin is more talented than most of the professional musicians I know. (Use: few)**
 - a. Professional musicians I know have few talents as Nithin.
 - b. Very few professional musicians I know are as talented as Nithin.
 - c. Few professional musicians I know are not as talented as Nithin.
 - d. Professional musicians I know do not have as few talents as Nithin.
4. **He said, "Will you listen to such a man?"**
(Begin: He asked....)
 - a. He asked them to listen to such a man.
 - b. He asked them would you listen to such a man.
 - c. He asked them whether they would listen to such a man.
 - d. He asked them not to listen to such a man.
5. **As soon as he reaches home, his friends call him.**
(Begin: Hardly.....)
 - a. Hardly does he reach home when his friends call him.

- b. Hardly had he reached home than his friends called him.
- c. Hardly, he reaches home, his friends call him.
- d. Hardly when he reaches home than his friends call him.
6. The Principal dealt with the miscreants firmly.
(Begin: The Principal)
- a. The Principal was firm in dealing with the miscreants.
- b. The Principal firmly dealt miscreants.
- c. The miscreants were dealt firmly by the Principal.
- d. The Principal was polite with the miscreants.
7. Yesterday was so much fun.
(End with a question tag)
- a. Yesterday was so much fun, would you say?
- b. Was yesterday much fun?
- c. Yesterday was so much fun, Isn't it?
- d. Yesterday was so much fun, wasn't it?
8. Kaushik has the best handwriting in the class. (Begin: No one...)
- a. No one has the better handwriting than Kaushik in the class.
- b. No one has the better handwriting in the class than Kaushik.
- c. No one in the class has better handwriting than Kaushik.
- d. No one's handwriting in the class is better than Kaushik.

