

2025
ENGLISH

Total marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

General instructions:

- i) *Approximately 15 minutes is allotted to read the question paper and revise the answers.*
 ii) *The question paper consists of 18 questions, divided into four sections A, B, C & D.*
 iii) *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option(s) being attempted.*
 iv) *Alternate question for the visually impaired has been provided in question no.13. ONLY the visually impaired are to attempt this alternate question.*

N.B: *Check that all pages of the question paper are complete as indicated on the top left side.*

SECTION-A (Literature)

Answer the following questions:

1. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given: **1x3=3**
- (a) *The rumours were confirmed when Morusa's relatives came to ask for her hand and they were readily accepted.* What are the 'rumours' mentioned in this line?
 A. Mehoviü accepted all marriage proposals.
 B. Mehoviü will be feasting her friends.
 C. Morusa could possibly become her suitor.
 D. Morusa was a famous warrior.
 i. Only A ii. Only C
 iii. Both A and C iv. Both A and D
- (b) Gandhiji's friend was worried that with all the readings on vegetarianism, Gandhiji might become a _____.
 i. crank ii. vegetarian
 iii. gentleman iv. wealthy person
- (c) The poem, _____ was a source of inspiration to Nelson Mandela during his years in prison.
 i. Daffodils ii. Ode to Liberty
 iii. O Captain! My Captain! iv. Invictus
2. Explain what is meant by '*balancing black aspiration with white fears*'. (Invictus) **3**
3. How did Morusa realize that he had unknowingly killed his own beloved?
Or **3**
 What is the 'infatuation' that Gandhiji says lasted for about three months?
4. A trophy is a prized possession and makes its owner proud. Would you consider the possession of a head, a trophy? Why? Why not? Give reasons. (Mehoviü and Morusa)
Or **5**
 Macbeth visited the witches a second time after the death of Duncan. What did they tell him? How did he feel after he heard the prophecies?

5. **Answer either 5(i) or 5 (ii) or 5 (iii)** 5
- (i) Read the lines and answer the questions that follow:
- No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Harkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveller's call.*
- (a) Why are the eyes of the traveller described as grey? (1)
- (b) 'voice from the world of men'. Whose voice is it? How is it significant? (2)
- (c) Why was he perplexed and still? (2)
- (ii) Give the summary of the poem, 'Jina and Etiben'. (5)
- (iii) (a) What is the main theme of the poem, 'Death the Leveller' by James Shirley? (5)
- Or**
- (b) Describe the setting of the poem, 'The Windhover'.
6. *'I won't stop him' says he, 'but let you not be afraid. Herself does be saying prayers half through the night, and the Almighty God won't leave her destitute' says he, 'with no son living'.*
- (i) Who is 'he' referred to here? 1
- (ii) Why did 'he' refuse to stop Bartley from going to the Galway fair? 2
7. Was it possible that Michael pushed Bartley off the rocks? Support your answer with logical reasoning. 3
- Or**
- How does Maurya know that they would soon have bad news?

SECTION - B (Reading)

8. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**
- (1) Once upon a time, in a quaint little village nestled in a picturesque valley, there lived a young girl named Lily. She was known for her adventurous spirit and her deep curiosity. One sunny afternoon, while exploring the woods that bordered the village, Lily stumbled upon a hidden clearing. In the center of this secret meadow, she found an old oak tree with a peculiar nook. In that nook, half-buried in the earth, was a mysterious locket, ornate and gleaming with intricate designs. Lily carefully unearthed it, and as she held it in her hand, she felt a strange connection to this forgotten piece of jewellery.
- (2) Back in her cottage, Lily examined the locket more closely. It was made of silver with a hint of gold, and its surface was adorned with delicate engravings of leaves and flowers. On the front, there was an image of a crescent moon, and on the back,

an engraving read, "To the one who seeks the truth." The locket was sealed tightly, and Lily couldn't open it no matter how hard she tried.

(3) Determined to solve the mystery, Lily embarked on a quest to find someone who could open the locket. She asked the village blacksmith, the wise old couple who lived on the hill, and even the town's mayor, but none of them could unlock its secrets. Feeling a bit discouraged, Lily spent her days reading about ancient relics and searching for clues in the library.

(4) One day, while immersed in an old book about mystical lockets, Lily came across a passage that mentioned the existence of a "key of the heart." It said that this key could open the most stubborn of locks, but it was hidden within each person, waiting to be discovered. This newfound knowledge gave Lily a renewed sense of hope and determination.

(5) The next morning, Lily decided to visit the village's recluse, an elderly woman rumoured to have deep knowledge of the heart. The recluse lived in a remote cottage surrounded by a lush garden. Lily knocked on the door and explained her quest. The old woman listened attentively and finally agreed to help. She told Lily that the key to opening the locket was hidden within her heart and that she needed to meditate on her truest desires and intentions.

(6) Lily followed the recluse's advice, sitting beneath the ancient oak tree where she had found the locket. She closed her eyes, focused on her heart's deepest desires, and as she did, she felt the locket warming in her hand. When she opened her eyes, she found the locket had sprung open, revealing a tiny, folded parchment inside. With trembling hands, she carefully unfolded it and read the message: "The truth lies in the journey, not the destination". The mystery of the locket was solved, but Lily realized that the real treasure was the journey of self-discovery she had undertaken. She understood that her quest had led her to understand her heart's desires and the power of her own determination.

- (i) Answer the following questions:
- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) What did Lily find in the nook? | 1 |
| (b) Whom did Lily approach in order to open to locket? | 2 |
| (c) What is the treasure of the locket? | 2 |
- (ii) Answer the questions given below as directed: **1x3=3**
- (a) *When she opened her eyes, she found the locket had sprung open, revealing a tiny, folded parchment inside.* Which of the following is a synonym of the underlined word in the given context? (Para-6)
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| i. intricate designs | ii. a stiff written material |
| iii. parcel | iv. carving on a flat rock |
- (b) What was engraved on the locket? (Para-2)
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| i. Leaves and flowers | ii. Image of a crescent moon |
| iii. To the one who seeks the truth | iv. all of the above |
- (c) The _____ finally helped Lily to open the locket. (Para -5)
- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| A. village blacksmith | B. Mayor |
| C. recluse | D. old couple |
- Select the correct option.
- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| i. Only A | ii. Only B |
| iii. Only C | iv. Only A and D |

9. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

- (1) Arundhati Roy was born on 24 November 1961 at Shillong, Meghalaya, India. She was educated at an informal school, Corpus Christi set up by her mother. Later, she spent a few years in a Boarding School in Kerala. She moved to Delhi at sixteen and started living a bohemian life. She lived in a hut in a slum in Ferozshah Kotla for some time and made a living by selling empty beer bottles and by teaching aerobics. She studied architecture in the Delhi School of Architecture but did not complete a degree.
- (2) Arundhati Roy achieved international fame in 1997 with her debut novel, 'The God of small things', which not only garnered large advances from publishers but also earned her the prestigious Booker Prize. 'The God of small things' is based on Roy's childhood experiences in Kerala, where major religions such as Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism coexist with ideologies such as Marxism. The inspiration for the novel was an image that came to her and that became the central scene of the novel: 'the image of this sky blue plymouth stuck at the railroad crossing with the twins (Rahel and Estha) inside and this Marxist procession raging around it'.
- (3) She has also been an architect, a scriptwriter, an actress, and a journalist and is now well known as an essayist, a forceful speaker, a social activist and a feminist. Her writings are published worldwide, and her speeches at international forums on important issues such as the war in Afghanistan and in Iraq, the environment, big dams, religious fanaticism, and nuclear weapons have made her an influential spokesperson for the world outside Europe and America.
- (4) Arundhati Roy believes that there is no essential difference between fiction and non-fiction, as far as she is concerned, they are two ways of telling stories. The thoroughness of her research, the clarity of her expression, the precision of her language, the conviction with which she articulates her views, and above all, the courage of her convictions are remarkable. Adding to her many accolades, Roy was awarded the PEN Pinter Prize in 2024 for her continuous effort in voicing out her thoughts and telling 'urgent stories of injustice with wit and beauty'.

(i) Answer the following questions:

- (a) How did Arundhati Roy survive as a teenager living in Delhi? **1**
- (b) What was the award winning novel, 'The God of small things' about? **2**
- (c) What are some of the issues Roy talks about as an influential spokesperson? **2**

(ii) Answer the questions given below as directed: **1x3=3**

- (a) Roy, besides being known as a writer and speaker had also worked as _____ . (Paragraph- 3)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| A. Actress | B. Journalist |
| C. Anchor | D. Developer |
| i. Only A | ii. Only B |
| iii. Both A and B | iv. Both C and D |

- (b) *The conviction with which she articulates her views.* Which of the following is the correct antonym of the word, 'articulate'? (Paragraph 4)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| i. ineloquent | ii. coherent |
| iii. communicative | iv. intelligible |

- (c) Roy was recently awarded with the _____.(Paragraph 4)
- i. Booker Prize
 - ii. Sahitya Akademi Award
 - iii. Sydney Peace Prize
 - iv. PEN Pinter Prize

10. **Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Wandering Singers

Where the voice of the wind calls our wandering feet,
Through echoing forest and echoing street,
With lutes in our hands ever-singing we roam,
All men are our kindred, the world is our home.
Our lays are of cities whose lustre is shed,
The laughter and beauty of women long dead;
The sword of old battles, the crown of old kings,
And happy and simple and sorrowful things.
What hope shall we gather, what dreams shall we sow?
Where the wind calls our wandering footsteps we go.
No love bids us tarry, no joy bids us wait:
The voice of the wind is the voice of our fate.

(Sarojini Naidu)

(i) Choose the correct rhyme scheme of the poem.

1

- a. abbc
- b. aabb
- c. abcc
- d. abab

(ii) Fill in the blanks to complete the summary of the poem:

$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

The poem is about the band of folk singers who _____ from town to town and from village to village to spread the message of love through their _____. They roam around various places with _____ in their hands. To them, all men are their relatives and the world is their _____. They sing about the beauty and laughter of women, the ancient kings and battles, which are now dead. They also sing about happy, simple and _____ things. No love can make them go slow or no joy can make them to wait. The voice of the _____ is the voice of their life and also their destiny.

SECTION -C (Writing)

11. Answer **any one** of the following in about 60-80 words:

4

a. You are Grace, the Secretary of the Music and Dance Club of Green Valley School, Tuensang. Write a notice for the school notice board to inform students about the upcoming Musical Night to be held at your school. Give all necessary details.

Or

b. You received an email from your mother who is worried about your health as you have been away at boarding school for almost two months and have not communicated with them. Write down the email that you received.

12. Write a paragraph in about 60-80 words on , ‘Effects of climate change’ using the inputs given: 4

Changes in timing of seasonal event and weather-glaciers retreat- changes in agricultural production- forestry- change in quality of air- food –water-decrease in water resources- change in eco system-ecological imbalance

13. Based on the visual input given below, write on “Internet addiction ” in about 100-150 words: 5



Alternate question only for the visually impaired students: ONLY the visually impaired are to attempt this alternate question. (5)

Based on the inputs given below, write on ‘Value of time’ in about 100-150 words.

Time is precious-cannot be reversed-waits for no one-should not waste-spend it doing something useful-important for everyone-set a time limit-disciplined life-pursue dreams and achieve our goals

14. Answer **any one** of the following in about 200 words: 7
- a. You are Senti, the school captain of Star High School, Mokochung. Write a letter to the Principal of your school on behalf of the Class X students seeking permission to visit the newly opened Art Exhibition Museum in Kohima, as part of your school’s co-curricular activities.
- Or**
- b. Write an article in about 200 words on the topic, ‘The importance of Tourism to boost the economy in Nagaland.’

SECTION- D (Grammar)

15. Rewrite the given sentences as directed in the brackets: 1x5=5
- (a) I found this pen in the library. Is this _____?
(Fill in the blank with the correct possessive pronoun)
- (b) I play the Cello.
(State whether the underlined word is a transitive or an intransitive verb)
- (c) The child is sleeping soundly on the sofa.
(Underline the phrase in the sentence)
- (d) I _____ cookies yesterday.
(Complete the sentence with a finite verb)
- (e) We must leave early _____.
(Complete the sentence by inserting a suitable clause.)

16. Rewrite the dialogue as reported speech: **1x4=4**
(a) Kiran: Don't play football in the park!
(b) Piyush: My parents will celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary next month.
(c) Teacher: Don't forget to complete your project work!
(d) Aman(to you): What are you reading?
17. Change the voice: **1x3=3**
(a) I am looked after by my grandmother.
(b) The victims of the landslide were rescued by the army.
(c) We buy and sell properties here.
18. Rewrite the following sentences using zero conditional clauses: **1x3=3**
(a) Ram/go out in rain /get wet
(b) Mix salt in water /it/dissolve
(c) Children play regularly/remain healthy
