



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
(VHSE WING)

ENGLISH
(Second Year)
QUESTION BANK



Career Guidance & Counselling Cell

Vocational Higher Secondary Examinations
English
Second Year
Unit 1 (Flights of Freedom)

Time : 2½ hrs.
Max Score : 80
Cool off time : 15 Minutes

<i>General Instructions to Candidates:</i>
◆ There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the time allotted to writing.
◆ Use the cool-off time to get familiarized yourself with the questions and plan your answers
◆ Read the instructions and the questions carefully before answering

Answer the questions as directed

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow:

She went about her repetitive, mundane work with an infectious cheerfulness.

- 1) Identify the speaker? (1)
- 2) Who is 'she' referred to here? (1)
- 3) What is the figure of speech used here? (1)
- 4) Explain 'infectious cheerfulness' (3)

5) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words given in brackets.

(rapidly, potential, challenges, economic)

The 21st century poses many (a) that require new ways of thinking, none more important than the (b) role of women in a (c) changing world. But women today remained blocked from contributing their true (d)

(4)

6) Read the excerpt from 'Horegallu' by Sudha Murthy. Identify the errors in the passage and correct them.

The horegallu in our village hold special memories for me as it is inextricably linked in my grandfather. He is retired schoolmaster and would spent hours everyday, sitting under the banyan tree and talking to those resting there. (4)

(Questions 7-12): Each question carries 4 score. Answer any five questions.

- 7) "We realise the importance of our voices only when we are silenced," Malala Yousafzai. In the light of this quote, prepare the character sketch of Nomita.
- 8) Inspired by Sudha Murthy's 'Horegallu' you have decided to write a blog on the topic 'The need for human horegallus in the fast moving society. Prepare the blog.
- 9) "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother" - Abraham Lincoln. Inspired by this statement you have decided to prepare a write up on the topic 'The role of mother in one's life.' Prepare it.

10) "Understanding is deeper than knowledge. There are many people who know you, but there are very few who understand you." In the light of this statement prepare the character sketch of Ratna.

11) "One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say" – Byrant H. McGill. Prepare the character sketch of the narrator's grandfather in the light of this statement.

12) Women should be given 50% reservation in the Parliament. Write four points in favour of the statement.

(Questions 13-18). Answer any five questions in about 100 words. Each question carries 6 score.

13) Prepare a write up on the significance of the title 'Horegallu'. You may cite examples from the story to justify your view.

14) Your school has decided to organise a seminar on the topic 'Atrocities against women'. You are assigned the task of giving a brief introduction to the topic. Prepare the script.

15) Atrocities against women like gang rape, murder, domestic violence etc. are increasing day by day. Write a short paragraph expressing your views regarding this topic to be posted in social media.

16) After reading Sudha Murthy's 'Horegallu,' you realise that it would be worth setting up horegallus on the pavements to help citizens to take break and ease themselves. Write a letter to the Mayor of your city putting forth the suggestion and explaining the reasons.

17) Christine Lagarde says "we need to provide greater access to credit so that women can achieve greater economic independence." In the light of this statement prepare a write up on the Kudumbasree project in Kerala and its impact on women empowerment.

18) Imagine you are the reporter of a weekly magazine. You want to interview the famous writer Sudha Murthy. Prepare three questions and the possible responses.

(Questions 19-21) Answer any two questions in about 120 words. Each question carries 8 score.

19) Your school is planning to celebrate International Women's Day. Smt. Sudha Murthy has been invited as the chief guest. You are assigned the task of welcoming the audience. Prepare the script of the speech.

20) 'Pink Police' and 'She Taxi' are some of the attempts from the part of government to ensure safety and uplift of women equity. Do you have any such innovative ideas for updating status of women in the society? Write an essay stating your views.

21) Read the lines given below and write a note of appreciation comparing it with 'Any Woman'

Mother O' Mine (Rudyard Kipling)

If I were hanged on the highest hill,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
I know whose love would follow me still,

Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
If I were drowned in the deepest sea,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
I know whose tears would come down to me,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
If I were damned of body and soul,
I know whose prayers would make me whole,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

Vocational Higher Secondary Examinations

English

Second Year

Unit 2 (Heights of Harmony)

Time: 2½ hrs.

Max Score: 80

Cool off time: 15 Minutes

General Instructions to Candidates:

- ◆ There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the time allotted to writing.
- ◆ Use the cool-off time to get familiarized yourself with the questions and plan your answers
- ◆ Read the instructions and the questions carefully before answering

Answer all the questions as directed

1. Read the following sentence and answer the questions that follow

"I have got only a few years to live, but I'll live those as I've lived the rest of my life. I'll go to my grave clean."

1. Why does he say so? (1)
2. Who speaks these words? (1)
3. Comment on the expression "go to my grave clean?" (2)

4. There are a few errors in the following sentence. Identify the errors and correct them
Felix was of his stool and rushed to Antonio like an bull, sending a hard write in his head. (4)

5. Give two suggestions to your friend who is going to participate in a competition. (2)

6. Report the following:

Martha told John, "your father has nothing against Mr Gresham. He will tell the truth - nothing but the truth." (2)

7. Elaborate the idea conveyed in the line "A compliment which cost you a hundred thousand dollars." (2)

Questions (8-13): Each question carries four score. Answer any five questions.

8. Prepare an announcement to be made about the winner of the Boy's Club tournament.

9. In the play 'The Hour of Truth' Robert Baldwin rejects the huge sum of hundred thousand dollars offered to him for telling just three words "I don't remember." Do you agree with him? Express your views in a paragraph.

10. In 'Mending Wall' by Robert Frost, what does the 'wall' symbolise?

11. The literary club of your school is staging the play 'The Hour of Truth.' As the secretary of the club you are asked to give an introductory speech on the play. Prepare it.

12. Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall

That wants it down." I could say "Elves" to him,

But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there,
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old stone savage armed.

- a) What does 'old-stone savage' stand for in the poem? (2)
- b) What meaning does the term 'elves' imply? (1)
- c) Name the poet. (1)

13. Robert Baldwin receives an email of apology from Mr. Gresham for offering him bribe. Draft the email.

Questions(14-19): Answer any five questions. Each question carries six score.

14. Antonio Cruz writes a letter to Felix Vargas expressing his longing to meet him after a gap of ten years. Draft the letter.

15. Compare the attitude of the narrator and his neighbour in 'Mending Wall' by Robert Frost.

16. Prepare a newspaper report about the crashing of Gresham's Bank.

17. "Good fences make good neighbours." Explain.

18. 'Honesty is the best policy'. In the light of the play 'The Hour of Truth,' write the character sketch of Robert Baldwin in a paragraph.

19. The truth about Gresham's bank is made public the next day in the court. Prepare a live TV report on the story that will be telecast.

Questions (20-22): Answer any two questions. Each question carries eight score

20. "A true friend is one soul in two bodies." Prepare an article to be published in your school magazine based on the story 'Amigo Brothers.'

21. Prepare an editorial to be published in a leading daily on the topic 'Corruption-the curse that curtails the development of our nation.'

22. Read the poem carefully and compare it with *Mending wall*.

As I Grew Older

It was a long time ago.
I have almost forgotten my dream.
But it was there then,
In front of me,
Bright like a sun-
My dream.
And then the wall rose,
Rose slowly,
Slowly,
Between me and my dream.
Rose until it touched the sky-
The wall.

Shadow.
I am black.
I lie down in the shadow.
No longer the light of my dream before me,
Above me.
Only the thick wall.
Only the shadow.
My hands!
My dark hands!
Break through the wall!
Find my dream!
Help me to shatter this darkness,
To smash this night,
To break this shadow
Into a thousand lights of sun,
Into a thousand whirling dreams
Of sun!

Vocational Higher Secondary Examinations

English

Second Year

Unit 3 (Challenges of Life)

Time 2½ hrs.

Max Score : 80

Cool off time : 15 Minutes

General Instructions to Candidates:

- ◆ There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the time allotted to writing.
- ◆ Use the cool-off time to get familiarized yourself with the questions and plan your answers
- ◆ Read the instructions and the questions carefully before answering

Answer all the questions as directed.

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.

Did stammer precede language

or succeed it?

Is it only a dialect or

a language itself?

These questions make

the linguists stammer.

- 1) What does the word “dialect” mean? (1)
- 2) Who is a “linguist”? (1)
- 3) Explain the meaning conveyed in these lines. (2)

Use appropriate idioms in the given sentences.

[Missed the boat, once in a blue moon, sit on the fence]

- 4) I really lost the opportunity to start up a business in 2007. (1)
- 5) I am not very fond of travel. I go for travelling very rarely. (1)
- 6) List down two ideas you cherish to work upon as an entrepreneur. (2)

7) Fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate phrasal verb from the brackets and complete the passage.

Interestingly, using my advice, all of my father’s friends (made up/made out) their losses, and most of them started making profits. This enabled me to (set up/set out) my first portfolio management business at the age of thirteen. (2)

8) **There are a few errors in the following sentence. Identify the errors and correct them.**

An entrepreneur is one who identifies a opportunity and puts off conscious efforts to make it an enterprise. (2)

9) **Fill in the blanks with appropriate modal auxiliaries.**

But when I persisted, they agreed, on two conditions: that I (will) get admission into a good undergraduate college in the city, and later, I (will) travel abroad for my graduate degree. (2)

(Questions 10-15): Each question carries 4 score. Answer any five questions.

10) Imagine you are the convenor of the Entrepreneurship Club of your school. Draft an email to invite Irfan Alam to inaugurate the Entrepreneurship Club of your school.

20) Prepare a profile of Shaheen Mistri.

(born in Mumbai- international upbringing- grew up in various countries- BA Sociology from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai- Masters in Education from the University of Manchester – interested in Children's education- founded Akansha Foundation- CEO of Teach for India since 2008)

12) Elaborate the idea in the following lines

When a whole people stammer

Stammer becomes their mother tongue;

just as it is with us now.

13) Akansha Foundation is doing a significant job by transforming the lives of underprivileged children. Explain in a paragraph your impression about Akansha foundation.

14) Imagine you are the secretary of the NSS unit of your school. Prepare an introductory speech to introduce Shaheen Mistri to the NSS Orientation camp.

15) **Report the following.**

Shaheen Mistri told father D'cruz, "Father, my life is in your hands. I want to do something for the children of India; I don't know how, only that I must."

(Questions 16-21) Answer any five questions. Each question carries 6 score.

16) Imagine you are a journalist working with a leading newspaper. Prepare a newspaper report on Irfan Alam's Sammaan Foundation.

17) Now a days, the attitude of Keralites to start-ups witnesses a positive change. The success story of Byju's App is a motivation to all. Imagine you write a letter congratulating Mr. Byju on his success. Draft the letter.

- 18) You have come across the advertisement for the post of AC service technician in LG Service centre, TVM. Prepare an application with resume.
- 19) Write an article to be published in your school Magazine about the picture of Mumbai presented by Shaheen Mistri in *Didi*.
- 20) Shaheen Mistri thought of her destiny while she was a small child. Have you ever thought of your destiny? Write your dream in a paragraph.
- 21) Write a letter to the editor of 'The Hindu' newspaper requesting him to publish an article appreciating the services of Shaheen Mistri's Akansha Foundation.

Questions (22-24): Answer any two questions. Each question carries 8 score.

- 22) Based on the lesson "The Three Wheeled Revolution," prepare an editorial to be published in a leading newspaper on the topic "Entrepreneurship is the key to tackle the unemployment in our country."
- 23) Imagine you applied to work as a volunteer in Akansha and is called for an interview. Prepare four questions and four likely responses.
- 24) Read the poem carefully and compare it with K. Satchidanandan's *Stammer*

Silence (Edgar Allen Poe)

There is a silence where
 hath been no sound,
 There is a silence where
 no sound may be,
In the cold grave-
 under the deep, deep
sea,
Or in wide desert where no
life is found,
Which hath been mute, and
still must sleep profound;
No voice is hush'd – no
life treads silently,
But clouds and cloudy
shadows wander free,
That never spoke-over the
idle ground
But in green ruins, in the
desolate walls
 Of antique palaces,
 Where Man hath been,
Though the dun fox, or wild
hyena, calls,
and owls, that flit
continually between,
shriek to the echo, and the

low winds moan,
There the true Silence is
self conscious and alone.

Vocational Higher Secondary Examinations

English

Second Year

Unit 4 (Live and Let Live)

Time : 2½ hrs.

Max Score : 80

Cool off time : 15 Minutes

General Instructions to Candidates:

- ◆ There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the time allotted to writing.
- ◆ Use the cool-off time to get familiarized yourself with the questions and plan your answers
- ◆ Read the instructions and the questions carefully before answering

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.

“I come home at the end of four years of research

In North India having earned a doctoral degree”

- 1) Who has gone to North India? (1)
- 2) What is the purpose of his journey? (2)
- 3) What is the speaker eager to eat from home? (1)
- 4) What is the central idea of the poem Rice? (3)
- 5) Can you give three suggestions to be given to students on world environment day celebration. (3)

6) There are a few errors in the following sentences. Identify the errors and correct them.

I would like to call in young people for commit themselves with activities that contribute toward achieving there long term dreams. (4)

(Questions 7-12) Each question carries 4 score. Answer any five questions

- 7) “I saw thousands of tadpoles: black, energetic... This is the world I inherited from my parents. The challenge is to restore the home of the tadpoles” - says Wangari Maathai. Prepare a blog entry based on this.
- 8) Bring out the satirical elements in the poem ‘Rice’ by Chemmanam Chacko.
- 9) Chemmanam Chacko has beautifully presented the state of farmers who are forced to move from food crops to cash crops. How far the change has affected our life style. Prepare a write up.
- 10) Your school is conducting a free medical camp on anti-narcotic day. Prepare a notice.
- 11) You got an opportunity to participate in the nature camp as part of NSS activities. You were very much excited as you stayed in a forest for two days. You make a diary entry. Prepare it.
- 12) Write a paragraph on the effect of sensual drugs on human body.

(Questions 13-18) Each question carries 6 score. Answer any five questions

- 13) Draft an email to be sent to the agriculture officer of your locality seeking permission to visit the organic farming area which won wide acclaim recently.
- 14) Your school plans to organise a trip to Thekkady wildlife sanctuary on Wildlife Week Celebration. Write a letter to the secretary, to enquire about the accommodation facilities and necessary arrangements.
- 15) Prepare an interview with any one of the famous environmentalists. Write three questions and the possible responses.
- 16) Write a letter to the editor of a leading Daily highlighting the issue of waste disposal in your locality.
- 17) Imagine that your school has won the best Eco Club award. You being the coordinator of the club have to receive the award from the district collector in the presence of other dignitaries. Prepare the award receiving speech.
- 18) A seminar is organised in your school on the topic 'organic farming for sustainable development.'
Prepare a report of the seminar chaired by agriculture officer.

(Questions 19-21) Each question carries 8 score. Answer any two questions

- 19) Harmful effects of sensual drugs on human body are vividly presented by Hardin Blair Jones. Prepare an essay highlighting the consequences of drug addiction.
- 20) Ecological imbalance is mainly due to the changing lifestyle of modern society. Actually humans are robbing the green blanket of earth. Prepare an article to be published in the school magazine suggesting measures to restore the greenery of our planet.
- 21) Read the poem carefully. Compare the poem with Rice by Chemmanam Chacko.

My Farmer Father

My father is a farmer,
His heart is in the soil
It's there he finds his solace,
Among the grimy toil.
He plants the seed in springtime,
The corn, the beans, the hay,
He prays that God would bless it,
A harvest, Lord, I pray.
He tills and cultivates it,
Provides the most tender care,
Believes that come October,
He'll reap a harvest fair.
Blue skies are his cathedral,
A tractor, his altar of prayer,
God meets him in the cornfields,
They have communion there.
My father is a farmer
That's all he'll ever be.
The values that the land taught him,

He handed down to me.
I love my farmer father
I'm thankful that he's mine.....
I pray that God would bless him,
Today and for all time.

Vocational Higher Secondary Examinations

English

Second Year

Unit 5 (The Lighter Side)

Time 2½ hrs.

Max Score: 80

Cool off time: 15 Minutes

General Instructions to Candidates:

- ◆ There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the time allotted to writing.
- ◆ Use the cool-off time to get familiarized yourself with the questions and plan your answers
- ◆ Read the instructions and the questions carefully before answering

Answer the questions as directed

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow:

“You see she has hurt her paw”

- 1) Who is the speaker? (1)
- 2) Whose paw is mentioned here? (1)

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words given in brackets.

(insolent, polite, foolish)

- 3) Mrs. Jones is very (1)
- 4) The Assistant is highly (1)
- 5) Your friend is suffering from tooth ache. He wants to consult a dentist. Give him two pieces of advice. You may begin “You’d better....., If I were you (2)
- 6) Report the following conversation (Change into indirect speech)
Tourist : Why do you hold me?
Policeman : Is this your parcel, sir? Because I’m going to undo it. (4)

Identify the errors in the passage and correct them.

‘Oh, no, no, no’ appealed the teacher. He look about cautiously. Fortunately these nursery is at a little distance for the main building.

(Questions 7-12) Answer any five questions. Each question carries 4 score.

- 7) Have you ever visited a dentist? What are your experiences? Prepare a write-up.
- 8) “And your teeth are supposed to be being polished,
But you have reason to believe they are being demolished”
Elaborate the idea conveyed in these lines.
- 9) The Assistant in the play Post Early for Christmas said that she was leaving the post office forever. She was going down to work at the animal dispensary. Send an email to her asking her to reconsider the decision.

10) "He was in charge of a gorilla." Who is the gorilla mentioned here and write a paragraph about his character.

11) The teacher in Crime and Punishment is frustrated. He makes a diary entry the same evening. Prepare it.

12) The play Post Early for Christmas is staged during the annual day of your school. Prepare a notice.

(Questions 13-18) Answer any five questions. Each question carries 6 score.

13) The Assistant in the play Post Early for Christmas narrates her miserable experience in the post office to her mother after reaching home. Prepare a write-up.

14) Write a letter to the editor of a Daily requesting him to publish an article highlighting the laws against punishing unruly children in the class in the light of the story Crime and Punishment.

15) Imagine you are a reporter who is covering the 'bomb news' in the post office in the play Post Early for Christmas. Prepare the report of the event.

16) The Assistant in the play Post Early for Christmas resigns. Prepare an interview with her. (3 questions and 3 responses)

17) Write an essay about the relationship between teachers and learners in the present education system in the light of the story Crime and Punishment.

18) Your class is conducting a debate on the topic 'Corporal punishment is necessary to discipline children.' Write three arguments in favour and three against the statement.

(Questions 19-21) Answer any two questions. Each question carries 8 score.

19) The Assistant in the play Post Early for Christmas resigns. There arises a vacancy. You want to apply for the post. Prepare an application for job and the resume.

20) You get an opportunity to make a speech in the school assembly on the occasion of Teachers Day on 'the role of a teacher in building the character of a learner.' Prepare the speech.

21) Read the following lines from the poem Night of the Scorpion and compare the same with 'This is going to hurt just a little bit'

Night of the Scorpion

I remember the night my mother
was stung by a scorpion. Ten hours
of steady rain had driven him
to crawl beneath a sack of rice.

Parting with his poison -flash
of diabolic tail in the dark room -
he risked the rain again.

The peasants came like swarms of flies
and buzzed the name of God a hundred times
to paralyse the Evil One.

With candles and with lanterns
throwing giant scorpion shadows
on the mud-baked walls
they searched for him: he was not found.
