

SUBJECT: FIRST LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

Time: 3 hours
Max Marks: 100

I. Four alternatives are given for each of the following questions / incomplete statements. Only one of them is correct or most appropriate. Choose the correct alternative and write the complete answer along with its letter in the space provided against each question.

14 × 1 = 14

1. The girl saw the painter standing the torrent.

The suitable preposition to be used here is

- (A) to (B) by
(C) from (D) with.

2. We had hour of English.

The suitable article that can be used here is

- (A) the (B) a
(C) an (D) a / the.

3. Every student should have *confidence* in his abilities.

The antonym of the word italicized is

- (A) overconfident (B) diffidence
(C) confidential (D) less confidence.

4. I have some urgent work

Fill in the blank with a suitable phrase :

- (A) to look for (B) to look up
(C) to attend to (D) on account of.

5. Honour and reputation dearer than life.

The suitable verb to be filled in the blank is

- (A) are (B) have
(C) had (D) is.

6. They loved each other very much, ?

The question tag of the above is

- (A) did they (B) don't they
(C) will they (D) didn't they.

7. Choose the correct one-word medical term for the following :

Science of the structure of the human body :

- (A) Urology (B) Anatomy
(C) Panacea (D) Amnesia.

8. He worked very hard, he failed.

The appropriate conjunction that can be used here is

- (A) but (B) and
(C) so (D) since.

9. The world admires Gandhiji as a great leader.

The passive form of the sentence is

- (A) The world is admiring Gandhiji as a great leader.
- (B) Gandhiji is admired as a great leader by the world.
- (C) Gandhiji was admired as a great leader by the world.
- (D) Gandhiji has been admired as a great leader by the world.

10. He levelled the ground and dug the earth for foundation.

This can be written in a simple sentence as

- (A) He dug the earth for foundation when he levelled the ground.
- (B) He dug the earth for foundation and levelled the ground.
- (C) Levelling the ground, he dug the earth for foundation.
- (D) The ground was levelled and the earth was dug for foundation.

11. The teacher was *satisfied* with the performance of the students.

The suitable prefix that can be used here to form the opposite of the word italicized is

- (A) in (B) un
- (C) dis (D) non.

12. Choose the pair that do not rhyme from the following:

- (A) bright-right (B) smiles-wiles
- (C) stole-pole (D) see-say.

13. The meaning of the word “ponder” is to

- (A) think (B) laugh
- (C) recite (D) speak.

14. My legs are pillars.

The figure of speech used here is

- (A) Personification (B) Alliteration
- (C) Metaphor (D) Synecdoche.

Solution:

1. (B) by
2. (C) an
3. (B) diffidence
4. (C) to attend to
5. (A) are
6. (D) didn't they
7. (B) Anatomy
8. (A) but
9. (B) Gandhiji is admired as a great leader by the world.
10. (C) Levelling the ground, he dug the earth for foundation.
11. (C) dis
12. (D) see-say
13. (A) think
14. (C) Metaphor

II. Observe the relationship in the first pair of words and complete the second pair accordingly in the following:

$$4 \times 1 = 4$$

- 15. agile : active, menace :
- 16. believed : belief, behaved :
- 17. wear : where, year :
- 18. hard : hardly, fast :

Solution:

- 15. threat
- 16. behaviour
- 17. ear
- 18. fast

III. Answer the following questions in a sentence each:

$5 \times 1 = 5$

- 19. What does an advertisement aim to do?
- 20. How do you say that Coca-Cola and Pepsi have become successful in India?
- 21. What negative impact will the free market economy have on our country?
- 22. What does the poet mean by the line “The rich will make temples for Shiva”?
- 23. What are Ruskin Bond’s stories based on?

Solution:

- 19. An advertisement aims to attract people’s attention and persuade them to buy a product or service.
- 20. Coca-Cola and Pepsi have become successful in India due to their aggressive marketing strategies and widespread consumer acceptance.
- 21. The free market economy may widen the gap between the rich and the poor, leading to economic inequality and exploitation.
- 22. The poet means that the wealthy build grand temples for Lord Shiva instead of realising the divine within themselves.
- 23. Ruskin Bond’s stories are based on simple rural life, nature, and childhood experiences.

IV. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:

$20 \times 2 = 40$

- 24. Why is the torrent in the worker’s paradise silent?
- 25. What is the main cause of soil erosion?
- 26. What were the most precious possessions of Jim and Della?
- 27. What are bacteria?
- 28. What message does the life of Anne carry?
- 29. Why does Jean ask Pierre to get the pie instead of taking it himself?
- 30. How was the majestic neck humbled by the hunter?
- 31. How is the human body compared to a temple? Why is the speaker comparing the human body to a temple?
- 32. Who was Lochinvar? Why did he ride to Netherby hall?
- 33. Why did Ulysses and his men enter the habitation of the eye-lops?
- 34. Why did Buttoo revere Drona as his master?
- 35. How does Bhima ridicule Karna?
- 36. Change into indirect speech:

“You are a very gallant man,” she said, “but why are you so serious?”

37. Combine the following sentences using too ... to and so ... that ... not :

These mangoes are very cheap. They cannot be good.

38. Change into other degrees of comparison:

Darjeeling is the most beautiful hill station in India.

39. Punctuate the following:

she wrote there are no trees to blossom and no birds because the war has destroyed them as well

40. Combine the following sentences using —

‘No sooner than’ and ‘as soon as’.

He saw the warden. He ran away.

41. How did Ellen express her love towards Lochinvar?

42. What happened when the speaker expressed his anger?

43. How do hunters disturb the stones of the wall?

Solution:

24. The torrent in the worker’s paradise is silent because it flows through a land where people are too busy working and have no time to listen to its sound.

25. The main cause of soil erosion is deforestation, which reduces the ability of the soil to hold water, leading to its removal by wind and water.

26. The most precious possessions of Jim and Della were Jim’s gold watch and Della’s long, beautiful hair.

27. Bacteria are microscopic single-celled organisms, some of which cause diseases, while others are beneficial for various biological processes.

28. Anne’s life carries the message of hope, courage, and the power of words in the face of adversity.

29. Jean asks Pierre to get the pie instead of taking it himself because he wants to test Pierre’s honesty and intentions.

30. The majestic neck of the stag was humbled by the hunter’s arrow, which pierced it and brought the animal down.

31. The human body is compared to a temple because it houses the divine spirit, and the speaker urges people to respect and take care of it.

32. Lochinvar was a brave knight who rode to Netherby Hall to claim his beloved Ellen before she could marry another man.

33. Ulysses and his men entered the habitation of the Cyclops in search of food and shelter during their long journey home.

34. Buttoo revered Drona as his master because he admired his skill in archery and wanted to learn from him despite being rejected.

35. Bhima ridicules Karna by calling him a charioteer’s son and questioning his right to fight alongside the Kshatriyas.

36. She said that he was a very gallant man but asked why he was so serious.

37. These mangoes are too cheap to be good. / These mangoes are so cheap that they cannot be good.

38. Comparative: Darjeeling is more beautiful than any other hill station in India.

Positive: No other hill station in India is as beautiful as Darjeeling.

39. She wrote, "There are no trees to blossom and no birds because the war has destroyed them as well."
40. No sooner did he see the warden than he ran away. / As soon as he saw the warden, he ran away.
41. Ellen expressed her love towards Lochinvar by escaping with him and trusting him over the man her parents had chosen for her.
42. When the speaker expressed his anger, it was suppressed, grew within him, and eventually harmed him.
43. Hunters disturb the stones of the wall by stepping on them carelessly and pushing them aside while pursuing their prey.

V. Explain with reference to the context:

5 × 3 = 15

44. "I brought a wrong man into this paradise."
 45. "Water is the basis of all life."
 46. "What have I done for my country."
 47. "Death's second self, that seals up all in the rest."
 48. "Good fences make good neighbours."

Solution:

44. "I brought a wrong man into this paradise."

Reference: This line is from "The Worker's Paradise" by Rabindranath Tagore.

Context & Explanation: The old man in the story regrets bringing the artist into the worker's paradise, as he does not fit into their world of relentless work. The artist, who values beauty and creativity over work, disrupts the monotonous lifestyle of the paradise, leading the old man to believe he made a mistake.

45. "Water is the basis of all life."

Reference: This line is from "Water – The Elixir of Life" by Sir C.V. Raman.

Context & Explanation: The writer highlights the importance of water in sustaining life on Earth. Water is essential for agriculture, industry, and human survival. Without it, life would not exist, making it the most valuable resource.

46. "What have I done for my country?"

Reference: This line is from the lesson "What is Patriotism?" by James Bryce.

Context & Explanation: The author encourages citizens to self-reflect on their contributions to their country rather than expecting what the country has done for them. True patriotism lies in actively serving and improving the nation.

47. "Death's second self, that seals up all in rest."

Reference: This line is from Shakespeare's Sonnet 73.

Context & Explanation: The poet compares sleep to death, calling it "Death's second self." Just as sleep brings temporary rest, death brings eternal rest, making it a powerful metaphor for human mortality.

48. "Good fences make good neighbours."

Reference: This line is from "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost.

Context & Explanation: The poet presents his neighbour's belief that setting clear boundaries maintains healthy relationships. While the speaker questions the need

for walls, the neighbour insists that they help avoid conflicts and misunderstandings.

VI. Answer the following questions in five or six sentences each:

4 × 3 = 12

- 49. Write the summary of the poem C.L.M.
- 50. What was John Silver's treacherous plan? How did Jim come to know about it?
- 51. How do you say that "The Gift of the Magi" is a suitable title for the story?
- 52. Give instances to show that the narrator tried his best to impress that he was normal sighted during his encounter with the girl.

Solution:

49. Summary of the poem "C.L.M."

The poem C.L.M. by John Masefield is a reflection on the sacrifices of a mother. The speaker laments that his mother gave him life at the cost of her own suffering, yet he never truly appreciated her. He acknowledges her pain and sacrifices, realising that he can never repay her. The poem expresses deep regret and sorrow over the mother's unacknowledged hardships, highlighting the selfless nature of a mother's love.

50. John Silver's Treacherous Plan & How Jim Knew About It

John Silver, the one-legged pirate, pretended to be a humble cook aboard the Hispaniola, but he was secretly plotting a mutiny. He and his pirate crew planned to seize the treasure and kill those who stood in their way. Jim Hawkins accidentally overheard Silver's conversation with his men, where they discussed their scheme. This revelation allowed Jim to warn his allies and prepare for the pirates' betrayal.

51. Why "The Gift of the Magi" is a Suitable Title

The title The Gift of the Magi is appropriate because it alludes to the biblical Magi, who brought valuable gifts to baby Jesus. In the story, Jim and Della sacrifice their most prized possessions—Jim sells his watch to buy Della hair combs, while Della sells her hair to buy Jim a watch chain. Their gifts become useless but symbolise their deep love and selflessness, making them wise and noble like the Magi.

52. Narrator's Attempt to Hide His Blindness

In The Eyes Have It by Ruskin Bond, the blind narrator tries to appear normal in front of a girl he meets on a train. He does not stare blankly, responds naturally, and asks descriptive questions about the scenery. He also avoids turning his face directly toward her and follows her verbal cues. Despite his efforts, the irony unfolds when he realises that the girl was also blind.

VII. Quote from memory:

4

53. And it

 it was mine.

OR

The rich

.....

of gold.

Solution:

And it grew both day and night.

Till it bore an apple bright.

And my foe beheld it shine,

And he knew that it was mine.

VIII. Answer the following questions in eight to ten sentences each:

4 × 4 = 16

54. Why does Gandhi say that moral act should be done without compulsion?

OR

How did Anne’s diary open the eyes of Germans to the viciousness of racial discrimination?

55. How does the uncertainty and disorganisation among the ranks of the invaders add to the humour?

OR

Write a short note on views expressed by the writer on the tragic comedy of ‘development’. Why does he call it tragic comedy?

56. What did Drona seek from Buttoo as recompense? What justification did Drona give for his unfair demand?

OR

Why did Wordsworth say that his moving the boat is an act of stealth? Why was he guilty of his act?

57. List the values which the poet-father wants the teacher to teach his son.

Solution:

54. Why Gandhi Says a Moral Act Should Be Done Without Compulsion?

Gandhi believed that a moral act should be performed voluntarily, without fear, pressure, or expectation of reward. True morality, according to him, comes from within and is not dictated by external forces. When a person is compelled to act morally, the act loses its value and becomes mechanical rather than genuine. Gandhi emphasised that real virtue lies in self-discipline and the willingness to do good purely out of inner conviction. He also stressed that moral actions should be done for the sake of truth and righteousness, not for personal gain or social approval.

55. How Uncertainty and Disorganisation Among Invaders Add to Humour?

In The Boy Who Broke the Bank, the invading forces are shown as chaotic and poorly coordinated. The leaders are unsure of their plans, giving conflicting orders, and the soldiers act in a disorderly manner. Their confusion results in comical blunders, such as attacking their own allies or being unprepared for battle. The

humorous portrayal of their incompetence makes them less threatening and adds a lighthearted tone to the narrative. The author cleverly uses irony and exaggeration to highlight the absurdity of war, making the scene entertaining despite its serious subject.

56. Drona's Demand from Buttoo & His Justification

Drona asked Buttoo (Ekalavya) for his right thumb as guru dakshina, effectively ending his archery skills. This was an unfair demand because Drona had never taught Buttoo. However, he justified it by saying that Buttoo's skill posed a threat to his favourite student, Arjuna. Drona believed that Arjuna was destined to be the greatest archer, and Buttoo's talent challenged this notion. Though his reasoning was biased, Buttoo accepted the demand with respect, sacrificing his ability to compete with Arjuna.

57. Values the Poet-Father Wants the Teacher to Teach His Son

The poet-father in A Father's Prayer wants the teacher to instil in his son values such as honesty, courage, and humility. He wishes for his son to be strong enough to resist temptation and stand by the truth, even when it is difficult. He wants him to learn the value of hard work and perseverance while remaining kind and compassionate. The father hopes his son will be patient in adversity, optimistic in challenges, and humble in success. He desires that his son respects both strength and weakness, understanding that true greatness lies in character, not wealth.

IX. 58. Write an essay on any one of the following topics:

1 × 5 = 5

- a) A visit to a historical place
- b) Need to conserve water
- c) Computers

Solution:

Need to Conserve Water

Water is one of the most essential resources for life on Earth. However, due to population growth, pollution, and climate change, freshwater is becoming scarce. It is crucial to conserve water to ensure its availability for future generations.

There are many ways to save water in daily life. Simple actions like turning off taps while brushing, fixing leaks, and using water-efficient appliances can make a big difference. Rainwater harvesting and reusing wastewater for gardening also help in conservation.

Agriculture and industries consume large amounts of water, so better irrigation methods and recycling processes should be adopted. Governments and organisations must promote awareness campaigns to educate people on water conservation.

If we do not take immediate steps, water shortages can lead to droughts, food crises, and conflicts. By using water wisely and protecting our natural sources, we can secure a better future for all.

X. 59. Imagine that you are Ramesh / Rashmi studying in Govt. High School, Vidyaranyapuram, Mysore.

Write a letter to your friend describing the annual day celebrations in your school.

OR

Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper complaining about frequent power cuts in your area.

Solution:

Govt. High School,
Vidyaranyaapuram, Mysore.
24th February 2025.

Dear Radha

I hope you are doing well. I am excited to share my experience of our school's annual day celebrations, which took place last week. It was a grand event filled with fun and excitement.

The programme began with a welcome speech by our headmaster, followed by a cultural performance showcasing dance, music, and drama. The chief guest, a well-known educationist, inspired us with his speech. The prize distribution ceremony was the highlight, where students were awarded for their achievements in academics and sports.

The event ended with a vote of thanks and the national anthem. It was a memorable day filled with joy and enthusiasm. I wish you were here to enjoy it with me!

Looking forward to your reply.

Your friend,
Rashmi.

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

April 14, last year, celebrated the 200th birthday of the man known as the father of the modern fairy tales, Hans Christian Anderson. He is the author of more than 150 stories. "The Little Mermaid", "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Emperor's New Clothes" to name a popular few.

Anderson was born in the slums of the Danish town of Odense. His father was a poor shoe-maker and his mother was a washerwoman. Anderson's parents played a very important role in paving the way for his career as a storyteller. His father died when he was 11 and he was forced to go to work. He apprenticed as a tailor and a weaver and also worked at a tobacco factory.

At the age of 17, Anderson got an opportunity to go to grammar school when one of the directors of the Royal Theatre gave him a grant. Five years later, he gained admission to Copenhagen University where he completed his studies.

Questions :

60. Who is known as the father of modern fairy tales? 1

61. Name Anderson's popular short stories. 1

62. Why was his childhood unhappy? 2

63. When and how did Anderson get an opportunity to go to grammar school? 1

Solution:

60. Hans Christian Anderson is known as the father of modern fairy tales.

61. Anderson's popular short stories include The Little Mermaid, The Ugly Duckling, and The Emperor's New Clothes.

62. Anderson's childhood was unhappy because he was born in the slums to poor parents. His father, a shoemaker, died when Anderson was 11, forcing him to work.

63. At the age of 17, Anderson got an opportunity to go to grammar school when one of the directors of the Royal Theatre gave him a grant.