

# SUBJECT: FIRST LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

Time: 9.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.

Max Marks: 100

## PART - A (Prose, Poetry and Supplementary Reading)

I. Answer the following questions in a sentence each:

4 × 1 = 4

1. What is the 'cheering sight' mentioned by Sir C. V. Raman?
2. What thrills the present day Indian shoppers?
3. What did the hunter do with the dead male sarus crane?
4. Why did the female sarus crane sit on the blood stained feathers?

### Solution:

1. The 'cheering sight' mentioned by Sir C. V. Raman is the beautiful scenery of trees, especially when they are covered in blossoms or fruit, which brings joy and delight.
2. The present-day Indian shoppers are thrilled by the variety of choices available in shopping malls, the attractive display of products, and the overall shopping experience.
3. The hunter picked up the dead male sarus crane, threw it into his bag, and walked away carelessly.
4. The female sarus crane sat on the blood-stained feathers of her dead mate, mourning his loss and expressing her deep sorrow and attachment.

II. Answer the following questions in two sentences each:

8 × 2 = 16

5. What are the subsidiary purposes served by controlling the movement of water and by its conservation?
6. Where did Otto Frank and the others hide themselves in, when the Nazis invaded Netherlands?
7. Why does the writer call the catchy phrase „shop till you drop“ apt and ironic?
8. Why did Jean lie to Pierre and send him to fetch the tart?
9. What did Ellen do to express her love towards Lochinvar?
10. What justification did Drona give for his unfair demand?
11. How did Parashurama realise that Karna was not a Brahmana?
12. Why did Ulysses not attack the Cyclop with his sword?

### Solution:

5. Controlling the movement of water and conserving it helps in preventing soil erosion, ensuring a steady water supply for agriculture, and generating hydroelectric power.
6. Otto Frank and the others hid in a secret annex behind his office building in Amsterdam when the Nazis invaded the Netherlands.

7. The writer calls the phrase "shop till you drop" apt because it describes excessive shopping, and ironic because it highlights the mindless consumerism of people.
8. Jean lied to Pierre and sent him to fetch the tart to distract him and avoid sharing the food with him.
9. Ellen expressed her love towards Lochinvar by eloping with him, showing her willingness to defy societal norms for love.
10. Drona justified his unfair demand by claiming that as a teacher, he had the right to ask for any fee (guru dakshina) from his student.
11. Parashurama realised that Karna was not a Brahmana when Karna endured a painful insect bite without reacting, displaying the resilience of a Kshatriya.
12. Ulysses did not attack the Cyclop with his sword because he knew that killing him would leave them trapped inside the cave, as only the Cyclop could move the large stone blocking the exit.

III. Answer the following questions in four to five sentences each:

5 × 3 = 15

13. What changes were noticed in the movement and attitude of the girl of the silent torrent after the man gave her the painted pitcher?
14. Why does the narrator say that October is the best time in Mussoorie? Being blind, how could he describe it?
15. Explain the ideas of spirituality emerging from the study of the vachana — 'The temple and the body'.
16. Why does the poet identify himself with the images of 'autumn' and 'evening' in the poem 'That Time of Year'?
17. How did Jim come to know about Long John Silver's treacherous plan?

**Solution:**

13. After receiving the painted pitcher, the girl of the silent torrent underwent a transformation in both her movement and attitude. Earlier, she moved hesitantly, burdened by her lack of confidence. However, the gift made her feel valued and respected, filling her with newfound pride and happiness. She carried the pitcher gracefully, symbolising her acceptance and appreciation of the kindness shown to her. Her hesitancy was replaced with confidence, and she no longer felt inferior.

14. The narrator describes October as the best time in Mussoorie due to its clear blue skies, pleasant weather, and golden sunshine. The surroundings are peaceful, and the hills appear fresh after the monsoon rains. Despite being blind, he describes it through his memories and sensory perceptions, such as the crispness of the air and the sounds of birds. His understanding of beauty goes beyond sight, relying on emotions and past experiences to paint a vivid picture of the season.

15. The vachana "The temple and the body" emphasises that true spirituality lies in recognising the human body as a sacred temple where divinity resides. It suggests that worship should focus on purity of thought, speech, and action rather than external rituals in physical temples. The poem teaches that devotion is not about idol worship but about maintaining moral integrity and righteousness in daily life.

This idea promotes self-discipline and inner spiritual awakening as the true path to realising the divine.

16. In the poem *That Time of Year*, the poet uses the images of 'autumn' and 'evening' to symbolise the later stages of life. 'Autumn' represents old age, as it is the season before winter, just as old age comes before death. 'Evening' signifies the end of the day, much like the poet's life approaching its final moments. By identifying with these images, the poet reflects on the passage of time and the inevitability of aging, urging the reader to appreciate life and love before it fades away.

17. Jim Hawkins discovered Long John Silver's treacherous plan when he accidentally overheard his conversation with other pirates. Hiding inside an apple barrel, Jim listened as Silver plotted a mutiny against Captain Smollett and the crew. Silver revealed his plan to seize the treasure for himself and take control of the ship. This shocking discovery made Jim realise the true nature of Silver and the dangers ahead. He quickly informed the captain and his allies, helping them prepare for the impending betrayal.

IV. Explain with reference to the context:

4 × 3 = 12

18. "I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

19. "If you can cure animals, you can cure my son."

20. "Stay where you are until our backs are turned."

21. What have I done to keep in mind  
My debt to her and womankind?

**Solution:**

18. **"I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"**

Reference: This line is from *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde. It is spoken by the little boy, who symbolises Christ.

Context: The Giant, after his transformation into a kind-hearted man, sees the little boy with wounds on his hands and feet. He is shocked and asks about them. The boy, representing divine love and sacrifice, reassures the Giant that his identity remains unchanged despite his suffering.

Explanation: The statement conveys the idea that physical appearance does not define a person's true self. It emphasises the deeper meaning of identity beyond outward looks and highlights the themes of kindness, redemption, and spiritual awakening.

19. **"If you can cure animals, you can cure my son."**

Reference: This line is from *The Doctor's Word* by R.K. Narayan. It is spoken by Gopal's wife to Dr. Raman.

Context: Gopal, a close friend of Dr. Raman, is critically ill, and his wife pleads with the doctor to save him. She believes in the doctor's ability and insists that if he can heal animals, he should be able to save her husband as well.

Explanation: The statement highlights the deep faith people place in doctors. It also reflects the desperation of a loved one seeking hope in a difficult situation. The line

underlines the doctor's responsibility and internal struggle between medical facts and emotional ties.

**20. "Stay where you are until our backs are turned."**

Reference: This line is from The Thief's Story by Ruskin Bond. It is spoken by Anil to the young thief.

Context: The thief had stolen money from Anil but later returned it out of guilt. The next morning, Anil, aware of the attempted theft, gives the thief a chance to change by forgiving him and offering him food.

Explanation: This line symbolises trust and forgiveness. Anil chooses not to confront the thief directly but subtly indicates that he knows the truth. His words offer the young thief an opportunity to reform rather than pushing him towards crime again.

**21. "What have I done to keep in mind My debt to her and womankind?"**

Reference: This line is from A Work of Artifice by Marge Piercy.

Context: The poem critiques the way society restricts women's potential. The speaker questions whether they have acknowledged or repaid the contributions and sacrifices of women.

Explanation: The lines highlight the poet's reflection on gender inequality. It urges readers to consider whether they have recognised and respected women's contributions. The phrase "debt to her" suggests a moral obligation to support gender equality and appreciate women's role in society.

V. Answer the following questions in six to eight sentences each:

4 × 4 = 16

22. What illustrations does Gandhiji give to justify that all good actions need not be moral acts?

OR

How is the precious soil eroded and how can this be prevented ?

23. Narrate the humorous situation in the running between the wickets for a run when the blacksmith hit the ball straight up in the air.

OR

Narrate the events where we see the glimpses of Nazi cruelty in the write-up of Louis De Jong.

24. 'Teach him to listen to all men ...  
but teach him also to filter all he hears  
on a screen of truth.'

Bring out the different ideas conveyed in these lines.

OR

How does the poet bring out the feelings of the female crane on the death of its male partner?

25. Describe the effect that the spectacle of the peak had on the poet's mind.

OR

Explain why Buttoo severed his right hand thumb.

**Solution:**

22.

Gandhiji explains that not all good actions qualify as moral acts. He gives the example of a man feeding the poor out of pity. While feeding the hungry is a good action, it is not necessarily a moral act unless it is done with pure selflessness. Similarly, a soldier who fights bravely in a war may perform an act of courage, but if he fights for personal gain or out of hatred, it is not a moral act. Gandhiji emphasises that a moral act must be performed with a sense of duty and without any selfish motive. He believes that the purity of intention determines whether an act is truly moral or just a good action.

OR

Soil erosion occurs due to natural forces like wind and water, as well as human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, and poor agricultural practices. When trees and plants are removed, the topsoil becomes loose and is easily washed away by rain or blown away by wind. This reduces soil fertility and leads to barren lands. To prevent soil erosion, afforestation should be encouraged, as tree roots bind the soil. Terrace farming and contour ploughing help control water runoff in hilly regions. Constructing check dams and promoting sustainable farming practices also play a crucial role in soil conservation. Proper land management ensures the protection of this valuable resource.

23.

In the story, a blacksmith, known for his great strength, plays in a cricket match and strikes the ball with immense force. However, instead of travelling far, the ball goes straight up into the air. The two batsmen, unaware of where the ball is, start running between the wickets to score runs. Meanwhile, the fielder stands waiting under the ball, ready to catch it. The batsmen continue running back and forth, assuming that the ball has gone for a boundary or is somewhere far. Eventually, the ball lands in the hands of a fielder, and the batsmen are declared out. The entire scene creates a humorous effect as the players' confusion and excitement lead to an unexpected and comical dismissal.

OR

Louis De Jong's write-up highlights the brutal cruelty of the Nazis during their occupation of the Netherlands. The Jews were forcibly taken from their homes and sent to concentration camps. They were subjected to inhumane treatment, including starvation, forced labour, and mass executions. The Nazis showed no mercy even to women and children, who were sent to gas chambers. Many families were torn apart, with loved ones never seeing each other again. Otto Frank's family, including Anne Frank, suffered a similar fate. The description of these atrocities gives a chilling insight into the ruthless and systematic persecution of Jews by the Nazis, revealing their absolute lack of humanity.

24.

These lines emphasise the importance of developing wisdom and critical thinking. The poet suggests that one should listen to everyone, as knowledge and experience can come from different sources. However, not all that is heard should be accepted blindly. Instead, one should filter information carefully, distinguishing truth from

falsehood. This teaches the value of discernment, encouraging a person to analyse and judge information logically. The lines also promote honesty and moral integrity, urging individuals to remain true to themselves while respecting others' perspectives. This advice helps one develop independent thinking and a strong moral compass.

OR

The poet vividly portrays the deep sorrow and grief of the female crane after the death of her mate. She refuses to leave the spot where the male crane was killed, sitting on his blood-stained feathers in silent mourning. Her behaviour reflects an intense emotional bond, highlighting her loyalty and love. Unlike humans who express grief through tears, the female crane's silent suffering makes her pain even more heart-wrenching. The imagery used in the poem emphasises her unbearable loneliness and loss. The poet's description effectively conveys that love and grief are not limited to humans but are deeply felt by animals as well.

25.

The sight of the majestic peak had a profound impact on the poet's mind. The sheer grandeur and height of the peak evoked a sense of wonder and admiration. It symbolised strength, endurance, and timeless beauty. The poet felt humbled in the presence of such natural magnificence, realising how small human life is in comparison to nature's vastness. The peak also inspired a sense of peace and spirituality, making the poet reflect on deeper meanings of life. It awakened emotions of awe and reverence, leaving a lasting impression on the poet's thoughts and imagination.

OR

Buttoo, also known as Ekalavya, severed his right-hand thumb as an offering to his guru, Dronacharya. Despite being denied formal training, Buttoo secretly observed and practised archery in front of Drona's statue, becoming a skilled archer. When Drona discovered this, he realised Buttoo's talent could surpass his favourite student, Arjuna. To ensure Arjuna remained the best, Drona demanded Buttoo's right-hand thumb as guru dakshina. Without hesitation, Buttoo cut off his thumb and offered it to Drona, displaying his unwavering respect and devotion. His sacrifice highlights themes of obedience, dedication, and the unfairness of societal hierarchy.

VI. Quote from memory:

4

26. And into .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 ..... beneath the tree.

OR

Then spoke .....  
 .....  
 .....

..... young Lord Lochinvar?"

**Solution:**

26. Then spoke the bride's father, his hand on his sword,  
(For the poor craven bridegroom said never a word.)  
"O come ye in peace here, or come ye in war,  
Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord Lochinvar?"

**PART - B**  
**(Grammar and Vocabulary)**

VII. 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.

10 × 1 = 10

27. A few students participated in the marathon, .....

The suitable question tag to be filled in the blank is

- (A) isn't it? (B) didn't they?
- (C) didn't it? (D) did they?

28. .... universal meet is being planned to discuss the measures to control carbon emission.

The appropriate article to be filled in is

- (A) A (B) An
- (C) The (D) Zero article.

29. Let him do that work.

The passive form of the above sentence is

- (A) Tell him to do that work.
- (B) Let him to do that work.
- (C) Let that work be done by him.
- (D) Let that work do him.

30. February is more pleasant than most other months of the year.

The superlative degree of the above sentence is

- (A) February is the most pleasant month of the year.
- (B) Very few months of the year are as pleasant as February.
- (C) February is the pleasantest month of the year.
- (D) February is one of the most pleasant months of the year.

31. I took up this profession to please my father.

The appropriate interrogative sentence to get the underlined words as answer is

- (A) Why have you taken up this profession ?
- (B) What did you do to please your father ?
- (C) What did you take up ?
- (D) Why did you take up this profession ?

32. The Don arrived at the airport. He was immediately arrested.  
The complex sentence when we combine these two sentences is  
(A) On his arrival at the airport, the Don was immediately arrested.  
(B) The Don was immediately arrested after he arrived at the airport.  
(C) On arriving at the airport, the Don was immediately arrested.  
(D) The Don arrived at the airport and he was immediately arrested.
33. I ..... a dictionary to find out the meanings of difficult words.

The suitable phrasal verb to be filled in the blank is

- (A) look up (B) look in  
(C) look after (D) look down.

34. "And I sunned it with smiles."

The figure of speech used here is

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

35. The boy jumped ..... the wall ..... the garden.

The appropriate prepositions to be filled in the blanks are

- (A) up, in (B) above, in  
(C) over, into (D) upon, to.

36. Your boss would have sanctioned your leave if you ..... (give) a genuine reason.

The appropriate form of the verb given in the brackets to be used in the blank is

- (A) give (B) had given  
(C) gave (D) have given

**Solution:**

27. did they? (D)  
28. A (A)  
29. Let that work be done by him. (C)  
30. February is one of the most pleasant months of the year. (D)  
31. Why did you take up this profession? (D)  
32. The Don was immediately arrested after he arrived at the airport. (B)  
33. look up (A)  
34. Personification (C)  
35. over, into (C)  
36. had given (B)

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

$$4 \times 1 = 4$$

37. Nose : Knows ; Check : .....  
38. Bachelor : Spinster ; Sculptor : .....  
39. Deep : Shallow ; Courage : .....  
40. Plentiful : Abundant ; Cascade : .....

**Solution:**



37. Nose : Knows ; Check : Cheque  
 38. Bachelor : Spinster ; Sculptor : Sculptress  
 39. Deep : Shallow ; Courage : Cowardice  
 40. Plentiful : Abundant ; Cascade : Waterfall

IX. Rewrite as directed:

41. Write in reported speech: 2

“Did you attend the classes yesterday?” said Shyam.

42. Rewrite the sentence using ‘No sooner’: 1

As soon as he is fit, he must resume his duties.

43. Combine the sentences using ‘too .... to’: 1

The cost of living in a city is very high. I cannot afford to stay there.

**Solution:**

41. Shyam asked if I had attended the classes the previous day.

42. No sooner is he fit than he must resume his duties.

43. The cost of living in a city is too high for me to afford to stay there.

## PART - C (Composition and Comprehension)

X. 44. Write an essay (in about 15-20 sentences) on any one of the following topics:  
1×5 = 5

- a) Organ donation — A step towards serving humanity
- b) Environmental awareness
- c) Importance of active and responsible mass media in our country.

**Solution:**

### **Organ Donation — A Step Towards Serving Humanity**

Organ donation is a noble act that can save multiple lives. It involves donating organs like the heart, liver, kidneys, and corneas after death or, in some cases, while alive. With thousands of patients waiting for transplants, organ donation provides them a second chance at life.

One of the biggest challenges in organ donation is the lack of awareness and myths surrounding it. Many people hesitate due to religious or personal beliefs, but educating society can encourage more donors. Governments and NGOs play a crucial role in spreading awareness and simplifying the donation process.

Living donors can donate organs like a kidney or part of their liver without affecting their health. Deceased donors can save several lives by donating multiple organs.

Opting for organ donation is a selfless decision that brings hope to families in distress.

By pledging to donate organs, individuals contribute to a cause greater than themselves. It reflects human compassion and unity. If more people come forward, countless lives can be saved, making organ donation a true step towards serving humanity.

XI. 45. Imagine that you are Swati/ Suraj of Government High School, Gulbarga.

Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing the inconveniences faced by commuters due to traffic jams in Metropolitan cities.

5

OR

Write a letter to your friend explaining to him the different options before him to take up as a career after completing his / her tenth standard.

**Solution:**

Government High School  
Gulbarga  
20th February 2025

The Editor  
The Times of India  
Bangalore

Subject: Inconveniences Faced by Commuters Due to Traffic Jams

Respected Sir,

I wish to bring to light the growing issue of traffic congestion in metropolitan cities. Daily commuters face severe inconvenience due to frequent traffic jams, especially during peak hours. Long delays cause frustration among students, office-goers, and emergency service providers.

The major reasons for this problem include the increasing number of vehicles, poor road conditions, and lack of proper traffic management. Encroachments and illegal parking further worsen the situation. Public transport facilities are inadequate, forcing people to rely on private vehicles.

To ease traffic congestion, authorities must improve road infrastructure, enforce strict traffic rules, and promote the use of public transport. Creating separate lanes for buses and emergency vehicles, along with better signal management, can also help.

I request you to highlight this issue in your newspaper to bring it to the attention of concerned authorities.

Yours sincerely,  
Swati

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

5×1 = 5

Tia Geminiuc, an insurance wholesaler, was making a quick stop at a chemist when she overheard an elderly woman asking for directions to a nursing home. Geminiuc tried to explain the route by city bus but it was clear that the trip would be complicated. So she said to the woman, "If you wouldn't mind, I would like to drive you there".

Doing so would take her out of her way and make her late for an important meeting with a client, but Geminiuc believes in reaching out. “The feeling you get from making someone’s day is something you can’t purchase,” she says.

Heading to the nursing home, the older woman explained that she was going to see her husband. “Because I gave her a lift, she got to spend an extra two hours with him,” says Geminiuc. “At that moment, she needed me more than anyone else did.”

It’s lovely to think that we do good deeds simply because we like making Someone’s day, but there must be a deeper motive at play. Human behaviours have evolved over thousands of generations and do not persist unless they support our survival.

“Natural selection minimizes any behaviour that supports others but is costly to us — unless there are compensating benefits,” says a Canadian Psychologist.

Questions:

46. What did Tia Geminiuc overhear?

47. What did Geminiuc decide to do for the old woman?

48. What inconvenience would Geminiuc be put to by helping the old lady?

49. What extra benefit did the old lady get by the good deed of Geminiuc?

50. When do human behaviours persist?

**Solution:**

46. Tia Geminiuc overheard an elderly woman asking for directions to a nursing home.

47. Geminiuc decided to drive the old woman to the nursing home.

48. By helping the old lady, Geminiuc would be taken out of her way and delayed for an important meeting with a client.

49. The old lady got the extra benefit of spending an additional two hours with her husband.

50. Human behaviours persist when they support survival and provide compensating benefits.