

# 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:

$4 \times 1 = 4$

1. Why did the idler ask the girl of the silent torrent for one of her pitchers?
2. According to Alexander Cheriyan, what should one do to make one's life meaningful and sustainable?
3. What was the science that Buttoo wanted to learn from Dronacharya?
4. How did Buttoo fulfil his promise to his master?

### Solution:

1. The idler asked the girl of the silent torrent for one of her pitchers because he wanted to drink water but was too lazy to fetch it himself.
2. According to Alexander Cheriyan, one should live simply, work hard, and be honest to make life meaningful and sustainable.
3. Buttoo wanted to learn the science of archery from Dronacharya to become a skilled warrior.
4. Buttoo fulfilled his promise to his master by cutting off his right thumb as Guru Dakshina, showing his deep respect and dedication.

II. Answer the following questions in two sentences each:

$8 \times 2 = 16$

5. How were the ribbons, made by the idler, responsible for the girl's work remaining unfinished?
6. How does a close friend describe Anne when she saw her at the Belsen Camp?
7. How has shopping become more than a need?
8. What was Gaultier's excuse for not carrying the eel pie to the Mayor's house himself?
9. How does the poet contrast the deaths of the male and the female cranes?
10. How was Lochinvar greeted by the bride's father when he entered the Netherby Hall?
11. What was the curse Parasurama pronounced in his anger on Karna?
12. Why did the fellow Cyclops leave Polyphemus alone when Ulysses and his men attacked him?

### Solution:

5. The idler made beautiful ribbons, which distracted the girl, making her forget her work. As a result, her task remained unfinished, and she lost her way home.

6. Anne's close friend described her as thin, weak, and shivering in the cold at Belsen Camp. She had lost all hope and joy, appearing completely different from the lively girl she once was.
7. Shopping has become more than a need as it is now a form of leisure, entertainment, and status symbol. People often shop for pleasure rather than necessity.
8. Gaultier excused himself from carrying the eel pie to the Mayor's house by saying he was too busy and that his apprentice could deliver it instead.
9. The poet contrasts the deaths by showing that the male crane was killed mercilessly by hunters, while the female crane mourned and died in sorrow, symbolising deep love and loss.
10. The bride's father scowled and frowned upon seeing Lochinvar at Netherby Hall. He was suspicious and displeased, knowing Lochinvar had come for the bride.
11. In anger, Parasurama cursed Karna, saying he would forget the knowledge of warfare when he needed it the most, leading to his downfall in battle.
12. The fellow Cyclops left Polyphemus alone because he told them that "Nobody" was hurting him, as Ulysses had tricked him by using that name.

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

4 × 3 = 12

13. How did Pasteur prove himself to be useful to the manufacturers of Lille?
14. How does Basavanna console himself regarding his helplessness as a poor man?
15. How does Robert Frost try to convince his neighbour that they do not need a wall? How does the neighbour respond?
16. Why had the doctor given the pirates the stockade and the treasure map?

**Solution:**

13. Pasteur proved himself useful to the manufacturers of Lille by studying the fermentation process in their industries. He discovered that tiny germs caused fermentation issues and suggested ways to prevent spoilage. His findings led to improvements in wine and beer production, benefiting the manufacturers greatly.
14. Basavanna consoles himself by believing that true wealth lies in devotion to Lord Kudalasangama rather than material riches. He expresses that owning land or wealth is meaningless if one's heart is not pure. He finds comfort in the idea that his connection with God is his greatest possession.
15. Robert Frost argues that a wall is unnecessary because nature itself tries to break it, and there are no animals to be contained. However, his neighbour firmly believes that "Good fences make good neighbours" and refuses to change his mind, continuing to rebuild the wall.
16. The doctor gave the pirates the stockade and treasure map to trick them into staying away while he and his companions searched for the treasure. He knew that

most of the treasure had already been taken, so he used the map to mislead and control the pirates.

IV. Explain with reference to the context:

5 × 3 = 15

17. Egypt, in fact, was made by its river.

18. "But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

19. "Can you tell me — did she keep her hair long or short?"

20. Which by and by black night doth take away,

21. .... If we should meet,  
She would pass by me in the street,

**Solution:**

17. **Reference:** This line refers to the importance of the River Nile in shaping the civilization of Egypt.

**Context:** The statement highlights how the Nile River played a crucial role in Egypt's development by providing water, fertile land, and supporting agriculture. Without the Nile, Egypt would have remained a desert.

**Explanation:** The phrase means that Egyptian civilization thrived because of the Nile, as it enabled farming, trade, and settlement, making Egypt one of the greatest ancient civilizations.

18. **Reference:** This line is from the story "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry.

**Context:** Jim says this to Della when she gives him a chain for his watch, only to find out that he has sold his watch to buy her a set of combs.

**Explanation:** The statement reflects irony and surprise, as both sacrificed their most precious possessions for each other's happiness, making their gifts practically useless yet symbolically valuable.

19. **Reference:** This line is from "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant.

**Context:** Matilda's friend asks this question when Matilda returns a lost necklace after years of struggle, not realizing that it was fake.

**Explanation:** The line shows dramatic irony, as Matilda suffered unnecessarily due to her pride and lack of honesty. It reveals the shocking twist that the necklace she replaced was not real.

20. **Reference:** This line is from "On His Blindness" by John Milton.

**Context:** The poet reflects on how his sight was taken away by blindness, symbolized by "black night."

**Explanation:** The line means that time takes away everything gradually, just as night replaces day. Milton expresses his sadness about losing his vision but later finds peace in accepting God's will.

21. **Reference:** This line is from "When You Are Old" by W.B. Yeats.

**Context:** The poet imagines that in the future, when the woman he loves grows old, she will not recognize him or their past love.

**Explanation:** The poet expresses sadness that the woman he once loved will become distant and indifferent, forgetting the deep love he had for her, which will eventually fade with time.

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

4 × 4 = 16

22. How does Gandhiji illustrate that for an act to be moral, it should be free from fear and compulsion?

OR

How did the young students of Germany pay homage to Anne Frank?

23. Explain how the hopes of the village, of winning the cricket match, fell with the resounding fall of their three champions.

OR

Why should any model of development based on high consumption and limitless market expansion prove to be highly dangerous?

24. The Poet, Sir Walter Scott, brings out the fact that love and courage go together. Explain this with reference to the poem "Lochinvar".

OR

How does Wordsworth describe the beauty of Nature as he rows the boat he had stolen?

25. What does the poet father want his son's teacher to teach his son about —

a) Books and Nature?

b) Being honest?

OR

The poem 'Buttoo' is a saga of loyalty and faithfulness as well as selfishness and cunning. Explain.

**Solution:**

22.

Gandhiji believed that true morality comes from within and should not be influenced by fear or external pressure. He explained that an act is not moral if it is done out of fear of punishment or expectation of reward. For example, a person who does good because of societal pressure or fear of consequences does not act morally. True morality requires courage and sincerity, where one follows the path of righteousness even when facing hardship. Gandhiji himself demonstrated this by practising non-violence and truth despite facing opposition and imprisonment.

23.

In the village cricket match, the villagers had high hopes of winning, as their best players were still at the crease. However, their excitement turned into despair when their three champion players were dismissed in quick succession. Each fall was a major setback, and with their best batsmen gone, their chances of victory diminished rapidly. The remaining players lacked the skill and confidence to chase the target, and soon the team faced defeat. The match not only tested their abilities but also proved how unpredictable cricket can be.

24.

In the poem "Lochinvar", the poet shows how love and courage are deeply connected. Lochinvar, a brave and determined knight, risks everything to claim his beloved Ellen, who is being forced to marry another man. He rides fearlessly to her wedding and, despite the opposition, boldly declares his love. His daring actions

demonstrate true bravery, as he faces danger without hesitation. His love gives him the strength to defy convention and fight for what he believes in. The poem highlights that real love is fearless and requires courage to overcome obstacles.

25.

a) Books and Nature?

The poet father wants his son's teacher to teach him the importance of books as a source of knowledge, wisdom, and imagination. However, he also believes that learning should not be limited to books alone. The boy should learn from nature, observe the world around him, and understand life's practical lessons.

b) Being honest?

The father wants his son to value honesty and stand by the truth, even when it is difficult. He wishes for his son to be strong and independent, never fearing to admit his mistakes. He wants him to understand that true success comes from integrity and sincerity, not shortcuts or dishonesty.

VI. Quote from memory :

4

26. But ere .....

.....  
.....

..... of brave Lochinvar.

OR

And it grew .....

.....  
.....

..... was mine.

**Solution:**

26. But ere **he alighted at Netherby gate,**  
**The bride had consented, the gallant came late:**  
**For a laggard in love, and a dastard in war,**  
**Was to wed the fair Ellen** of brave 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 of alphabet:

10 × 1 = 10

27. He is ..... Indian, but his wife is ..... European.

The correct pair of articles to be filled in the above blanks is

(A) the ; an

(B) an ; an

(C) an ; a

(D) a ; a.

28. Dr. Jenner discovered how to vaccinate against small pox, ..... ?

The appropriate question tag to be added to the above sentence is

(A) hadn't he

(B) didn't he

(C) did he

(D) had he.

29. The bus is coming round the corner.

The tense of the verb in the given sentence is

(A) Simple Past

(B) Simple Present

(C) Past continuous

(D) Present continuous.

30. Drive slowly, ..... for potholes on the road.

The correct phrasal verb to be used in the above blank is

(A) look at

(B) look out

(C) look over

(D) look up.

31. The President called off the meeting.

The passive form of the above sentence is

(A) The meeting was called off by the President.

(B) The meeting has been called off by the President.

(C) The meeting had been called off by the President.

(D) The meeting will be called off by the President.

32. Pick out the complex sentence from the alternatives given below:

(A) Being an honourable man, he will not tell lies.

(B) He is an honourable man and he will not tell lies.

(C) Since he is an honourable man, he will not tell lies.

(D) In spite of being an honourable man, he will not tell lies.

33. Only one of the given sentences is correctly punctuated. Identify it :

(A) "Why are you so late for the meeting, Robert ?" asked Anwar.

(B) Why are you so late for the meeting, Robert asked Anwar.

(C) "Why are You so late for the Meeting, robert ?" asked anwar.

(D) "Why are you so late for the meeting Robert ? asked Anwar."

34. .... in dots and pits

like the Morse code of bird's sorrow.

The figure of speech used here is

(A) Simile

(B) Personification

(C) Metaphor

(D) Synecdoche.

35. The government has launched a massive campaign ..... smoking.

The correct preposition to be used in the above sentence is

- (A) for
- (B) between
- (C) against
- (D) after.

36. .... the boy is clever, he is lazy.

The appropriate conjunction to be used in the blank is

- (A) But
- (B) And
- (C) Though
- (D) Since

**Solution:**

- 27. (B) an; an
- 28. (B) didn't he
- 29. (D) Present continuous
- 30. (B) look out
- 31. (A) The meeting was called off by the President.
- 32. (C) Since he is an honourable man, he will not tell lies.
- 33. (A) "Why are you so late for the meeting, Robert?" asked Anwar.
- 34. (C) Metaphor
- 35. (C) against
- 36. (C) Though

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

$$4 \times 1 = 4$$

- 37. Elude : Escape :: Ecstasy : .....
- 38. Role : Roll :: Great : .....
- 39. Moral : Immoral :: Real : .....
- 40. Progress : Progressive :: Victory : .....

**Solution:**

- Elude : Escape :: Ecstasy : Joy
- Role : Roll :: Great : Grate
- Moral : Immoral :: Real : Unreal
- Progress : Progressive :: Victory : Victorious

IX. Rewrite as directed :

- 41. Change the following into other two degrees of comparison : 2  
Napoleon was the bravest of the generals.
- 42. Combine the following sentences using "too ..... to" : 1  
He is very weak. He cannot play the match.
- 43. Frame a question to get the underlined words as an answer : 1  
For his M. A. degree, Radhakrishnan chose the topic 'The Ethics of Vedanta'.

**Solution:**

- 41. Comparative: Napoleon was braver than all other generals.  
Positive: No other general was as brave as Napoleon.

42. He is too weak to play the match.  
 43. What topic did Radhakrishnan choose for his M.A. degree?

## PART - C (Composition and Comprehension)

X. 44. Imagine you are Rathan / Radhika, studying in Government High School, Theerthalli.

Write a letter to your younger brother advising him to participate in the inter-school Music Competition.

5

OR

Write a letter to the local Road Transport Authority requesting to have more buses along your school route to help the students.

### **Solution:**

Rathan  
 Government High School,  
 Theerthalli.  
 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Dear Mohan

I hope you are doing well. I recently heard about the inter-school Music Competition at your school, and I strongly encourage you to participate. You have a wonderful voice and a great passion for music, so this is a perfect opportunity to showcase your talent.

Participating in such competitions will help boost your confidence and improve your skills. Winning is not the only goal; the experience and learning matter the most. So, practise well and give your best performance.

I am sure you will make us all proud. Let me know how it goes!

Yours lovingly,  
 Rathan

XI. 45. Write an essay (in about 15-20 sentences) on any one of the following topics:

1 × 5 = 5

- a) Safety and dignity of women in India.
- b) The Greener the world, the happier the life.
- c) Organ donation — life after death.

### **Solution:**

#### **Safety and Dignity of Women in India**

The safety and dignity of women are essential for a progressive and just society. Women play a vital role in shaping families and communities, yet they often face harassment, discrimination, and violence. Ensuring their security and respect is the duty of every individual and the government.



Strict laws, awareness programmes, and self-defence training can help women feel safer. Education and financial independence empower them to stand against injustice. Families should teach boys to respect women from a young age, creating a society where equality and dignity prevail.

A nation can only prosper when women feel safe and valued. By promoting gender equality and enforcing strict laws against crimes, we can create a better and safer future for all.

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

5 × 1 = 5

Among all the gifts you can give a child, there is none more conducive to his present and future happiness and content, none more likely to add richness to his life, than books. Not a book, but the habit of reading. Give him the habit of reading and you have done something for which he may be thankful all his days. Books should be the daily companions of a child's life. And they ought not to be linked too closely with the school. You don't want to create the idea that reading a book is a task, a lesson. It's the fun, the good time he can get out of reading that needs to be emphasized. You want to make him enjoy reading so that reading will become a treasured part of his daily life and there is nothing difficult about this.

Questions :

46. What can add to the richness of a child's life?
47. Why shouldn't books be linked too closely to the school?
48. What aspects should be emphasized while reading?
49. When will reading become a treasured part of a child's daily life?
50. Give a word from the passage which means: "Valuable".

**Solution:**

46. The habit of reading can add to the richness of a child's life.
47. Books shouldn't be linked too closely to school because it may make reading feel like a task or lesson rather than an enjoyable activity.
48. The fun and enjoyment of reading should be emphasized to make it a pleasurable experience.
49. Reading will become a treasured part of a child's daily life when it is introduced as an enjoyable and rewarding habit rather than a compulsory task.
50. "Treasured" means "valuable" in the passage.