No. of Questions – 18
No. of Printed Pages – 11

SENIOR SECONDARY EXAMINATION, 2026

ENGLISH (COMPULSORY)

Time : 3 Hours 15 Minutes

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXAMINEES :

1) Candidates must write their Roll No. first on the question paper compulsorily.

2) All the questions are compulsory.

3) Write the answer to each question in the given answer-book only.

4) For questions having more than one part the answers to those parts are to be written together in continuity.

5) Write down the serial number of each question before attempting it.

SECTION – A

(READING)

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

[1×9=9]

Shopping centres are good. They are a sign of dizzing economic growth. The multi-level air-conditioned mall represents comfort, choice, luxury and better times. But many metropolises with growing middle classes now have such a great number of malls – all full with outlets – that they appear to have long crossed saturation point.

Now-a-days, it seems our default place for every activity is the mall – it's where we shop, eat, watch movies, arrange to meet our friends or just generally lie around. Many young people shop at the mall so that they can look good when they meet their friends at the mall.

My main argument with shopping centres is not that they are often massive concrete blocks that don't take into account the architectural nuances or cultural backdrop of a city or that they promote ultra consumerism at a time when our planet can ill afford it. My main protest with the excess of malls is that they don't seem to make us happy. Oh, the large advertisements outside the stores could persuade us to think that if we only had this pair of jeans, or if we hung out at this cafe, then we could feel more satisfied. But once we buy something, we only want to buy something more.

Shopping malls, even though they try to look as showy and as welcoming as possible, can be unkind places. The very concept of the mega – mall plays on human feelings of inadequacy and competitiveness. To make us buy, it must make us feel that we lack something, or that everyone else has something we do not yet own.

The saddest thing is that the modern mall has made us put aside a whole array of beautiful, worthwhile – and yes, cheaper – activities, many of them inherent to our own culture and region. Instead of shopping, we could be cooking, visiting a nearby waterfall, beach or temple, reading a novel, writing poetry, making music, taking a long walk, playing a game, learning a dance or visiting a friend.

Every time there is a spare piece of land, all we think of building on it is yet another mall. Perhaps instead, we should be building libraries or theatres, art galleries, museums, sports halls, parks, animal sanctuaries – the list is endless.

Questions :

A) What are the shopping centres a sign of ? [1]

B) Why do many young people shop at the malls ? [1]

C) How do people generally spend their time at a mall ? [1]

D) What is the main protest of the author with the excess of malls ? [1]

E) Which activities could we do instead of shopping ? [1]

F) What should we build in place of building malls ? [1]

G) Find out the words from the passage which mean the same as –
   i) Very big in size. [1]
   ii) Very large and thickly populated cities. [1]
   iii) Place where birds or animals are protected from being hunted. [1]

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : [1×6=6]

Srinivasa Ramanujan was one of the greatest mathematical genius of the world. Born in a poor brahmin family, he gave no indication of his hidden talent. He was born at Erode in Coimbatore in 1887. His father was an accountant to a cloth merchant who had to maintain a large family on a small income. Srinivasa was granted half exemption of fees when he stood first in the primary school examination in the whole of Tanjore District.

[Turn Over

From his childhood Ramanujan was of a quiet and dreamy temperament. He had answer to all sums that puzzled his classmates and seniors. Figures did not worry him, no calculation was too difficult for him. Things which were dark and muddled to his classmates were as clear as daylight to him. He always helped them with generosity which was the most lovable feature of his character all through his career.

When he was in second class his curiosity upon the subject of the 'Highest Truth' in Mathematics was roused. Later on when he moved into the Third Standard, he asked for problems of Mathematics of higher nature. While in Fourth Standard, he could solve the most difficult problems of Trigonometry. He obtained Ewler's Theorems and proved them. He followed Carr's Synopsis of Pure Mathematics. He solved all the problems without any other book to aid him. To him each solution was a triumph which encouraged him to a fresh endeavour.

Ramanujan won the Subramanyam scholarship usually awarded for proficiency in English as well as Mathematics. But the passion for Mathematics gained on him. He neglected all other subjects so much that he failed to gain promotion to higher class, thereby losing his scholarship. This was a great calamity of which he had never dreamt.

Questions :

A) Where was Ramanujan born ?   [1]

B) How did Ramanujan show his talent in fourth standard ?   [1]

C) Which scholarship was awarded to him ?   [1]

D) What was the unexpected calamity that befell Ramanujan ?   [1]

E) Find the opposite word for 'rich'.   [1]

F) Find the same word for 'inspired'.   [1]

SECTION – B
(WRITING)

3. You are Amit/Amita, the Sports Secretary of Government Senior Secondary School, Dosa.

   Draft a notice for the school notice-board in about 80 words informing the students and inviting the names of those who want to participate in the inter-school cricket tournament to be held next month.   [4]

                    OR

   Your friend Rahul has invited you to attend the wedding ceremony of his sister at Udaipur. Write an informal reply expressing your inability to attend the ceremony due to your annual exams.

4. You are Mona/Mukesh, editor of your school magazine. Recently your school celebrated the 'Prize Distribution Function'.

   Write a report in about 100 words with the help of the hints given below.

   .... celebrate .... every year .... collector .... chief guest .... welcome .... garland .... principal .... annual report .... guests .... give prizes .... speech .... students participate .... programme .... end .... National Anthem.   [5]

                    OR

   Write a paragraph in about 100 words with the help of the hints given below.

                    Importance of Tree Plantation.

   Trees .... life .... give oxygen .... breathing .... carbon-dioxide .... stops. Soil .... cool climate .... shade .... save .... environment.

5. Imagine that you are Harsh/Harsha living in Jaipur. Write a letter to the Superintendent of Police, Jaipur, about the increasing incidents of chain snatching and requesting him to take strict measures to control the law and order conditions in the city. [5]

OR

Imagine you are Jyoti/Jayesh living in Kota. You are a post graduate in English with a B.Ed. degree.
Write a job application to the Principal, Adarsh Senior Secondary School Kota for the Vacant post of a lecturer in English.
Attach a suitable resume with your application.

SECTION – C
(GRAMMAR)

6. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct phrasal verbs given in the brackets : [1×3=3]

   A) He was _____ by his aunt. (brought up/brought down) [1]

   B) When do you _____ in the morning ? (get on/get up) [1]

   C) The fire _____ at midnight. (broke in/broke out) [1]

7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct conjunctions given in the brackets : [1×3=3]

   A) He is both a singer _____ a dancer. (and/yet) [1]

   B) I know _____ he lives. (when/where) [1]

   C) Vineeta is taller _____ Shweta. (than/then) [1]

8. Combine each set of sentences into one sentence as directed : [1×2=2]

   A) He took a paper. He wrote a letter. (use infinite) [1]

   B) She finished her work. She went to sleep. (use participle) [1]

9. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the conditional verbs given in the brackets : [1×2=2]

A) If I _____ (go) to Delhi, I shall meet my brother. [1]

B) If you _____ (be) a millionaire, you would buy a charter plane. [1]

SECTION – D
(TEXTUAL QUESTIONS)

10. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow : [1×6=6]

Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still ! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how I blushed and how frightened I was.

But nothing happened. M. Hamel saw me and said very kindly, "Go to your place quickly, little Franz. We were beginning without you". I jumped over the bench and sat down at my desk.

Questions :

A) That day, everything at the school was so still and quiet as [1]

   i) Sunday morning

   ii) Saturday morning

   iii) Monday morning

   iv) Wednesday morning

B) 'I had counted on the commotion .....'
[1]

Who does the word 'I' here refer to ?

  i) Old Hauser

  ii) M. Hamel

  iii) Wachter

  iv) Franz

C) M. Hamel was walking with a
[1]

  i) walking stick in his hand

  ii) terrible iron ruler under his arm

  iii) book in his hand

  iv) black silk cap in his hand

D) Where could a great bustle be heard usually ?
[1]

E) Why was Franz frightened ?
[1]

F) What did M. Hamel say to Franz ?
[1]

11. Answer the following questions in about 60 words :
[3]

A) Describe the role of Kasturbai and Gandhiji to improve the condition of the people at Champaran. https://www.rajasthanboard.com (Indigo)

OR

B) Describe the 'misadventure' that William Douglas speaks about.
(Deep Water)

12. Answer each of the following questions in about 20-30 words :
[2×2=4]

A) What present did the peddler leave for Edla ? (The Rattrap) [2]

B) What does Sophie dream about her future ? (Going Places) [2]

13. Explain **any one** of the following stanzas with reference to the context : [5]

But after the airport's security
check, standing a few yards away,
I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and
felt that old familiar ache,
my childhood's fear, but all
I said was, see you soon Amma,
all I did was smile and
smile and smile ....

OR

When Aunt is dead, her terrified
hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was
mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

14. Answer the following questions in about **60** words : [3]

A) What is the message given in the poem, 'Keeping Quiet' ?

OR

B) What is the theme of the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty' ?

15. Answer **each** of the following questions in about **20-30** words : [2×2=4]

A) What were the owners of the roadside stand selling ? (*A Roadside Stand*) [2]

B) What did the poet see while driving to the airport ?

(*My Mother at Sixty-six*) [2]

16. Answer the following questions in about 60 words :   [3]

A) Describe the end of the Tiger King's life.   (*The Tiger King*)

OR

B) Describe Doctor Sadao's qualities.   (*The Enemy*)

17. Answer **each** of the following questions in about 20-30 words :   [2×2=4]

A) Who is Derry ? How does he meet Mr. Lamb ?   (*On the Face of It*) [2]

B) Who is Judewin ? What terrible warning did she give to the writer ?
        (*Memories of Childhood*) [2]

18. Choose the correct option as answer :   [1×9=9]

A) Charley's friend Sam was a   [1]

   i) Chemist   ii) Psychiatrist

   iii) Philosopher   iv) Businessman

B) The actual cost of the wooden tiger was only   [1]

   i) two annas and a quarter

   ii) three annas and a quarter

   iii) four annas and a quarter

   iv) five annas and a quarter

C) The World's geological history is trapped in   [1]

   i) Austria   ii) America

   iii) Antarctica   iv) Australia

D) 'The Akademik Shokalskiy' was the name of a Russian research   [1]

   i) Institute   ii) Vessel

   iii) Laboratory   iv) Programme

E) Sadao's father sent him to _____ for learning surgery and medicine. [1]

   i) Russia   ii) Japan

   iii) China   iv) America [1]

F) Mr. Lamb had lost one of his legs

   i) in a train accident   ii) in a bomb explosion

   iii) while climbing a tree   iv) while climbing a hill [1]

G) The British Jewellers sent a bill for _____ of rupees to the Maharaja. [1]

   i) Three lakh   ii) Five lakh

   iii) Ten lakh   iv) Eight lakh [1]

H) The landlord opened the parcel and began to eat the

   i) Mangoes   ii) Vadais

   iii) Iced lollies   iv) Halva [1]

I) The name of the American Soldier was

   i) John   ii) Jack

   iii) Tom   iv) Thomas

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