

ELECTIVE ENGLISH

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allotted: Three Hours

Reading Time: Additional Fifteen Minutes

Instructions to Candidates

1. You are allowed an **additional fifteen minutes** for **only** reading the question paper.
2. You must **NOT** start writing during reading time.
3. This question paper has **7 printed pages and one blank page**.
4. It is divided into **two sections** and has **seven questions** in all.
5. **Question 1** has **twenty subparts**. **Any ten subparts on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
6. While attempting **Multiple Choice Questions** in **Section A**, you are required to **write only ONE option as the answer**.
7. **Question 2** has **ten subparts** which are short answer questions. **Any five subparts on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
8. **Section B** has **five questions** which are long answer questions. Each question carries 20 marks. **Any three questions on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
9. The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [].

Instruction to Supervising Examiner

1. Kindly read **aloud** the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the examination hall.

SEAL

SECTION A – 20 MARKS

(Attempt **any ten** subparts on any three textbooks of Question 1 and **any five** subparts of Question 2)

Question 1

Choose the most appropriate option from among those given for **any ten** of the questions or statements from **any three** of the prescribed textbooks.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD: *Harper Lee*

- (i) What does the town of Maycomb represent in the novel? [1]
- (a) A stagnant society unwilling to confront its moral decay
- (b) A post-Depression Southern town recovering from poverty
- (c) A close-knit community driven by shared values and religion
- (ii) What does Jem's action of "fingering the wide petals" of the camellia left to him by Mrs Dubose indicate? [1]
- (a) He is considering throwing the flower into the fire after the candy box.
- (b) He is struggling with understanding, anger, and guilt as he reflects.
- (c) He is masking relief that the hateful Mrs Dubose is finally gone.
- (iii) In his closing speech at the trial, Atticus pointed out that the state had _____. [1]
- (a) turned the case into black and white
- (b) not produced a shred of medical evidence
- (c) shown no pity for the chief witness
- (iv) What impression is created of Bob Ewell by the judge instructing him to keep "within the confines of Christian English usage"? [1]
- (a) He is vulgar and ill-mannered.
- (b) He is an atheist and blasphemous.
- (c) He is drunk and confused.

THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

- (v) The Sundarbans landscape contributes to the novel's themes because: [1]
- Statement I:** it reflects the fragility of human lives amidst nature's forces.
- Statement II:** it contrasts scenic tranquility to tumultuous human stories.
- (a) Only Statement I is true.
- (b) Only Statement II is true.
- (c) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

- (vi) Kusum fervently believed in Bon Bibi, but Nirmal dismissed the story as [1]
_____.
(a) rural superstition
(b) false consciousness
(c) poetic fallacy
- (vii) In what way does the legend of Bon Bibi blur the boundary between myth and reality? [1]
(a) By mocking traditional beliefs through scientific critique
(b) By limiting myths to symbolic background material
(c) By showing myths guide real-world decisions
- (viii) The title of the project that Piya wants to take up at the end of the novel is [1]
_____.
(a) Fokir
(b) Badabon Trust
(c) Gangetic Dolphins

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

- (ix) What does Nora's secret loan reveal about her character and situation? [1]
(a) That she cannot distinguish between morality and legality
(b) That she manipulates those around her for sympathy
(c) That she is willing to defy social norms for protecting her husband
- (x) What does the Tarantella **NOT** reveal? [1]
(a) Control
(b) Indifference
(c) Emotion
- (xi) How does Dr Rank communicate his imminent death? [1]
(a) He writes a letter crossing it in black ink.
(b) He leaves his calling card marked with a black cross.
(c) He does nothing, knowing Torvald cannot face ugliness.
- (xii) How does Ibsen use the motif of doors and space in the play? [1]
(a) To reflect Nora's transition from confinement to liberation
(b) To illustrate emotional distance between characters
(c) To symbolise Nora's desire to decorate her house

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

- (xiii) How is the play structured to reflect Willy's psychological state? [1]
(a) The shifting timeline shows confusion in Willy's mind.
(b) The structure portrays Willy's anxiety for his younger son.
(c) The clear chronology reflects the inevitability of Willy's fate.
- (xiv) What thematic purpose does Linda serve in the play? [1]
(a) She highlights the emotional burden of women in patriarchy.
(b) She lightens the tension in emotionally intense scenes.
(c) She represents social conformity more than emotional investment.
- (xv) Willy's response that the coach will congratulate Biff on stealing the regulation ball shows he _____. [1]
(a) knows the regulation ball is vital for better performance in the game.
(b) is inculcating fearlessness and dynamism in his sons.
(c) has misplaced ideals that will cause his son trouble later.
- (xvi) Which one of the following is true of Ben's opinion of Willy? [1]
(a) He cares for Willy because he knows Willy looks up to him.
(b) He considers himself superior and does not feel Willy is worth his time.
(c) He has no opinion on Willy because Willy does not fight fair.

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE: *Ed. Chris Woodhead*

- (xvii) Which of the lines from the poem, *October*, reflect Edward Thomas' melancholic inability to rejoice in the beauty around? [1]
(a) 'The gossamers wander at their own will'
(b) 'The late year has grown fresh again and new / As Spring'
(c) 'now I might / As happy be as earth is beautiful / Were I some other'
- (xviii) In Ted Hughes' poem, *The Thought-Fox*, what does the final line 'The page is printed' signify? [1]
(a) Completion of a successful hunt
(b) Transformation of abstract idea into poetic creation
(c) Creative exhaustion and end of inspiration
- (xix) Which of the following is **NOT** true of W.H. Auden's *Refugee Blues*? [1]
(a) The poem is a morbid song sung for Hitler's propaganda.
(b) The poem describes indifference of humans towards refugees.
(c) The poem talks about polite official denial of asylum.

- (xx) In the poem, *The Building*, Philip Larkin connects a secular building to [1]
- _____.
- (a) streets and car parking
 - (b) children and their games
 - (c) religion and worship

Question 2

Briefly answer **any five** of the following questions from **any three** of the prescribed textbooks.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD: *Harper Lee*

- (i) What does Scout and Jem's visit to Calpurnia's church reveal about Maycomb's racial divisions? [2]
- (ii) What did Mr Underwood do during Atticus' encounter with the men outside the jail? What was surprising about his action? [2]

THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

- (iii) How do Piya and Fokir communicate despite not understanding each other's language? [2]
- (iv) Where and how did Nirmal die? [2]

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

- (v) How is it made clear that Nora has no romantic feelings for Dr Rank? [2]
- (vi) How are the two letters written by Krogstad important to the sequence of events in the play? [2]

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

- (vii) Briefly state why both Biff and Happy are unhappy with their lives. [2]
- (viii) How does Miller use the Requiem to comment on Willy's life? [2]

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE: *Ed. Chris Woodhead*

- (ix) How does Philip Larkin describe the fashion of the girls and their attire in the poem, *The Whitsun Weddings*? [2]
- (x) What does Seamus Heaney mean by "stones of silence" in the poem, *Punishment*? [2]

SECTION B – 60 MARKS

Attempt *three* questions from Section B on ~~any~~ *three* out of the five prescribed textbooks.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD: *Harper Lee*

Question 3

- (i) Analyse the role of Dill in the novel. Do you think the novel would have been complete without this character? Substantiate your opinion with two arguments. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Heck Tate's role once Bob Ewell was killed [10]
(b) The conversation in the Finch household once they came in after the fire at Miss Maudie's house [10]

THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

Question 4

- (i) Examine how Amitav Ghosh portrays the complex and often conflicting relationship between human life and the natural world in the novel. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Mashima [10]
(b) The legend of Bon Bibi [10]

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

Question 5

- (i) Trace Nora's evolution from the 'doll' of the house to an individual in her own right, choosing to seek a path of liberation. Provide suitable references to the text. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Krogstad [10]
(b) Sacrifice in the play [10]

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

Question 6

- (i) How does Miller explore the illusion of the American Dream through the characters and dramatic technique in the play? [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

(a) Howard Wagner [10]

(b) Charley [10]

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE: *Ed. Chris Woodhead*

Question 7

- (i) How does Ted Hughes' poem, *Ravens*, highlight the violence that exists in nature? What does he state in the final stanza of the poem? [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

(a) Imagery of suffering and starvation during the famine in the poem, *At a Potato Digging*, by Seamus Heaney. [10]

(b) What churches might be used for once they fall out of use for their original purpose, according to Philip Larkin in the poem, *Church Going*. [10]

