

ELECTIVE ENGLISH

20540960

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: Section A and Section B** and has **seven questions** in all.
5. **Section A** has **two questions** which are very short answer and short answer questions.
6. **Question 1** has **twenty subparts**. **Any ten subparts on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
7. While attempting **Multiple Choice Questions** in **Section A**, you are required to **write only ONE option as the answer**.
8. **Question 2** has **ten subparts** which are short answer questions. **Any five subparts on any three textbooks** have to be attempted.
9. **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.
10. 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 for Question 1 and **any five** subparts for 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 broader theme does the fire at Miss Maudie's house reflect? [1]
- (a) The destructive power of an unusual winter in a Southern town
 - (b) The fragile balance between personal loss and communal solidarity
 - (c) The punishment of pride and independence in a traditional society
- (ii) ".....'s face told everybody in the first grade he had hookworms. His absence of shoes told us how he got them... He did have on a clean shirt and neatly mended overalls." Whom is Scout describing here? [1]
- (a) Walter Cunningham
 - (b) Little Chuck Little
 - (c) Burris Ewell
- (iii) How does the courtroom scene underscore the central message of the novel? [1]
- (a) It demonstrates the triumph of reason over racial bias.
 - (b) It lays bare the systemic failure of justice in a prejudiced society.
 - (c) It reflects Maycomb's commitment to fair trial procedures.
- (iv) What does Scout's statement, "Well, Dill, after all he's just a negro." reveal about her? [1]
- (a) Scout is racist, having succumbed to "Maycomb's usual disease" despite Atticus.
 - (b) Scout has learnt from Aunt Alexandra to see people through the lens of race.
 - (c) Scout has unwittingly internalised the attitudes of a deeply racist environment.

THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

- (v) Read the two statements given below and choose the correct option from the ones that follow: [1]
Statement I: Legends and myths distract people from their reality and exploitation.
Statement II: Legends and myths provide social and moral codes of conduct.
- (a) The novel presents both viewpoints as stated in Statement I and Statement II.
(b) The novel negates Statement I and presents only Statement II.
(c) The novel negates Statement II and presents only Statement I.
- (vi) What does the tide **MOST** powerfully represent in the novel? [1]
(a) The rise and fall of political movements in Bengal
(b) The influence of colonial history on post-Independence India
(c) The uncontrollable rhythms of nature and fate
- (vii) Why does Nirmal leave his journal for Kanai? [1]
(a) Nirmal wants Kanai to publish his journey to fund the settlers.
(b) Nirmal wants to atone for his role in bringing about the massacre.
(c) Nirmal wants to share the depth of his experiences and struggles.
- (viii) What did Kusum consider the worst part of her struggles in the tide country? [1]
(a) Hearing the police announce the settlers were worth less than dirt or dust
(b) The dysentery caused by the wild greens they were forced to eat
(c) The refusal by Mashima to help out with medicines and other necessities

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

- (ix) "Something glorious is going to happen." What does Nora expect will happen? [1]
(a) Torvald will immediately pay off her debt.
(b) Torvald will sacrifice his reputation to protect her.
(c) Torvald will worship her for the sacrifices she has made for him.
- (x) How does Mrs Linde's reappearance affect Nora's view of life? [1]
(a) Mrs Linde demonstrates independence brings strength and loneliness.
(b) Mrs Linde makes Nora aware of the burdens of motherhood.
(c) Mrs Linde reinforces Nora's belief in love over practicality.

- (xi) Why does Nora ultimately decide to leave Torvald and her children? [1]
- (a) She wishes to punish Torvald for his hypocrisy.
 - (b) She recognises her need to live as an independent individual.
 - (c) She rejects motherhood as incompatible with individuality.

- (xii) What is Krogstad's actual reason for blackmailing Nora? [1]
- (a) Malice
 - (b) Heartbreak
 - (c) Desperation

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

- (xiii) What do the garden and the seeds clearly reflect in the play? [1]
- (a) Willy's return to a rural childhood
 - (b) Willy's need to leave behind a tangible legacy
 - (c) Willy's acceptance of Biff's love for the outdoors

- (xiv) According to Willy, the American Dream can be fulfilled through _____. [1]
- (a) stealing and college
 - (b) driving to New England
 - (c) personal attractiveness

- (xv) What serves as a reminder of a missed figure and lost opportunities? [1]
- (a) Seeds
 - (b) Flute music
 - (c) Stockings

- (xvi) To whom does Willy say, "You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away"? [1]
- (a) Howard
 - (b) Charley
 - (c) Ben

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – Ed. Chris Woodhead

- (xvii) What role does 2000-year-old bog body play in Seamus Heaney's comment on the contemporary situation in the poem, *Punishment*? [1]
- (a) Shows a contrast between ancient savage justice and modern gentler justice
 - (b) Enables parallels between past rituals and contemporary practices
 - (c) Reminds contemporary society of the beauty and fragility of forgotten cultures
- (xviii) What is the central irony in the speaker's repeated visit to churches in Philip Larkin's poem, *Church Going*? [1]
- (a) He criticises religion yet seeks meaning in sacred spaces.
 - (b) He enters to vandalise yet ends up preserving rituals.
 - (c) He professes architectural interest yet permits rain and sheep into the building.
- (xix) How does Edward Thomas view the song of the thrushes in the poem, *March*? [1]
- (a) As grating to his aching, burning temples
 - (b) As short-lived and likely to be torn apart by hail
 - (c) As a perfect sign of approaching happiness
- (xx) In the poem, *Pike*, Ted Hughes explores _____. [1]
- (a) the grandeur of myth in society
 - (b) the grace and brutality in nature
 - (c) England and its history

Question 2

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

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – Harper Lee

- (i) "You ain't got no business bringin' white chillun here..." Who says these words? Why is the attitude reflected in the words significant in the novel? [2]
- (ii) Why did Dill start crying during the trial? What does it reflect about him? [2]

THE HUNGRY TIDE: Amitav Ghosh

- (iii) What was the pact between Dokkhin Rai and Dhona according to legend? [2]
- (iv) Piya might not have survived the storm without Fokir. State any two ways in which he saved her from certain death during the storm. [2]

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

- (v) In what way is the letterbox a powerful symbol in the play? [2]
(vi) What sacrifices did Mrs Linde make in her life? [2]

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

- (vii) How does Bernard's life contrast with Biff's? [2]
(viii) How does Willy react to Linda mending stockings? What is the reason for his reaction? [2]

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

- (ix) Give any two examples to show how the lover in W.H. Auden's poem, *As I Walked out One Evening*, establishes his "love has no ending"? [2]
(x) What imagery does D.H. Lawrence use to evoke a sense of nostalgia in the poem, *Piano*? [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) Atticus firmly believes, "You never really understand a person until ... you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Show how Atticus' words and actions stemming from this belief influence the perspective of Jem and Scout towards the characters of Boo Radley, Mrs Dubose, Mayella, and one other character of your choice. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
(a) Bob Ewell as a character symbolising hate and prejudice. [10]
(b) The 'mad dog' incident and its thematic significance. [10]

THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

Question 4

- (i) Do you believe the river dolphin plays any role in the novel beyond being the reason for Piya's presence in the Sunderbans? Support your opinion with clear evidence from the novel. [20]

OR

(ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Kusum's commitment to the settlers' cause despite her limitations. [10]
- (b) The significance of the Morichjhanpi episode in the novel. [10]

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

Question 5

- (i) Do you agree that considering his role in the play, Dr Rank is appropriately named? Support your opinion with suitable evidence from the play. [20]

OR

(ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) The role played by letters in the play. [10]
- (b) The tarantella Nora dances. [10]

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

Question 6

- (i) Give a detailed account of the Requiem of the play *Death of a Salesman*, bringing out the sad irony of the closing of the play. [20]

OR

(ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Ben. [10]
- (b) Willy's "race with the junkyard" as a comment on consumerism. [10]

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

Question 7

- (i) What view of marriage does Philip Larkin present in *The Whitsun Weddings*? Do you agree with his view? Briefly state reasons for your agreement or disagreement. [20]

OR

(ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) What happens once the snake begins to withdraw "into that horrid black hole" in D.H. Lawrence's poem, *Snake*. [10]
- (b) Suffering and isolation in W.H. Auden's poem, *Refugee Blues*. [10]

