

ELECTIVE ENGLISH

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Candidates are allowed **additional 15 minutes** for only reading the paper.

They must **NOT** start writing during this time.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

Attempt **ten** questions from **Question 1** and **five** questions from **Question 2** in **Section A** on **any three** out of the five prescribed textbooks.

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

Do not attempt extra questions.

SECTION A – 20 MARKS

(Attempt **any ten** subparts 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 Lula's objection to the presence of Jem and Scout in the church prove? [1]
- (a) Everyone does not like the company of visiting children.
 - (b) There are not enough seats for more in the crowded church.
 - (c) It is not only the white community that is guilty of racial prejudice.
- (ii) How has Mayella Ewell violated the social code of Maycomb? [1]
- (a) By making advances to a black man
 - (b) By falling in love with a man of a different church
 - (c) By suggesting her father is guilty of physical and sexual abuse
- (iii) Who had his shotgun covering Atticus at the Maycomb Jail? [1]
- (a) Sheriff Tate
 - (b) Mr. Underwood
 - (c) Link Deas

This Paper consists of 7 printed pages and one blank page.

- (iv) "Someday, maybe, Scout can thank him for covering her up." Whom would Scout thank and why? [1]
- (a) Dolphus Raymond for his paper-bag drink
 - (b) Mr. Avery for standing up for the children by the snowman
 - (c) Boo Radley for putting a blanket on Scout in the cold

THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh*

- (v) "It's just false consciousness;" To what does Nirmal say this? [1]
- (a) To the government's insensitivity towards the refugees
 - (b) To Francois Bernier's *Travels in the Mughal Empire*
 - (c) To Kanai's question on the story of Bon Bibi
- (vi) What does the presence of the crocodiles and snakes in the tide country signify? [1]
- (a) Magnificence of the 'Sundarbans' to invite the stranger in
 - (b) The unpredictability of the tide of the forest
 - (c) The utter hostility of the terrain
- (vii) How did young Kanai react to the idea of Sir Daniel Hamilton building a society without exploitation? [1]
- (a) With a mocking reference to "rat-eaten islands"
 - (b) With wonder for "a new kind of country"
 - (c) With sudden thought for the broken down "huge generator"
- (viii) What would Kanai sometimes fondly imagine about meeting his uncle? [1]
- (a) He would visit him in Lusibari one day before his uncle died.
 - (b) He would run into his uncle at his college during a lecture on Marx.
 - (c) He would meet his uncle at a bookshop and discreetly pay for his book.

A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen*

- (ix) According to Torvald, what was Nora's most sacred duty? [1]
- (a) Duty to home and society
 - (b) Duty to her husband and children
 - (c) Duty to herself and honesty

- (x) Why did Nora have to forge her father's signature? [1]
- (a) She could not legally borrow money without Torvald's consent.
 - (b) Her father was terminally ill, and Torvald was absent.
 - (c) Krogstad was blackmailing her and she had to pay him off.
- (xi) What does Torvald feel about the effect of lies on a person's family? [1]
- (a) The atmosphere is corrupted, and the children are infected by evil.
 - (b) Children will have to be taught how to detect lies.
 - (c) Occasionally, a man's face and family may be saved by lies.
- (xii) What is the "big favour" Nora asks of Helmer before the Stensborgs' ball? [1]
- (a) To suggest a gift for the hosts
 - (b) To put away the bank papers
 - (c) To choose her dress for the ball

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

- (xiii) What does Willy NOT consider important for attaining success? [1]
- (a) Being well-liked
 - (b) The Regents exam
 - (c) A smile and a shoeshine
- (xiv) What does Willy want Bernard to do to help Biff? [1]
- (a) Do Biff's homework for Biff
 - (b) Show Biff the answers during the examination
 - (c) Talk to Mr. Birnbaum to help Biff pass the examination
- (xv) Happy boasts to the ladies at the restaurant that he is _____ . [1]
- (a) a champagne salesman
 - (b) a banker
 - (c) a lawyer

- (xvi) What is the significance of The Woman in the play? [1]
- (a) She is Biff's serious romantic interest in contrast to Happy's several.
 - (b) She symbolises feminism and modernity.
 - (c) She signifies Willy's mistakes, regrets, and guilt.

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – Ed. Chris Woodhead

- (xvii) In the poem *Punishment* by Seamus Heaney, what is the narrator? [1]
- (a) The betraying sister
 - (b) The artful voyeur
 - (c) The stones of silence
- (xviii) What is the poet's tone when he mentions his epitaph in the poem *Beauty*? [1]
- (a) Bitter
 - (b) Nostalgic
 - (c) Enraged
- (xix) In D.H. Lawrence's poem *Piano*, "tingling strings" are an example of _____. [1]
- (a) Onomatopoeia
 - (b) Personification
 - (c) Hyperbole
- (xx) What idea does Ted Hughes present in the poem *Crow Tyrannosaurus*? [1]
- (a) Birds of prey must eat, but they are afraid of the creatures that they eat.
 - (b) The natural world has evolved to chaos through random selection of prey.
 - (c) Man justifies his killing and slaughter through rationalisation.

Question 2

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

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – Harper Lee

- (i) Why did Mayella find it offensive when Atticus Finch referred to her as “ma’am” and “Miss Mayella”? [2]
- (ii) What “reasonable description” did Jem give Dill of Boo Radley? [2]

THE HUNGRY TIDE: Amitav Ghosh

- (iii) Why did Nilima not want Kanai to reminisce about Canning? [2]
- (iv) What puzzled Kanai about Piya when he first saw her wait for a train to Canning? [2]

A DOLL’S HOUSE: Henrik Ibsen

- (v) Why was it important for Krogstad to get his job at the bank back? [2]
- (vi) What did Dr. Rank confess to Nora after she flirted with him by showing him her stockings? How did she react? [2]

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: Arthur Miller

- (vii) How old was Ben when he had entered the jungle? What was his age when he came out? [2]
- (viii) How did Linda react upon discovering the rubber pipe in the basement? [2]

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – Ed. Chris Woodhead

- (ix) How does D.H. Lawrence describe the flowers in the poem *Bavarian Gentians*? [2]
- (x) Which political and personal incident forms the background to Seamus Heaney’s poem *Casualty*? [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) Comment, with suitable textual evidence, on the thematic significance of the tea party hosted by Aunt Alexandra for her missionary circle. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
- (a) Games the children play inspired by Dill's "idea of making Boo Radley come out." [10]
- (b) Calpurnia's role in the Finch family that makes Atticus tell his sister, "I couldn't have got along without her all these years." [10]

THE HUNGRY TIDE: Amitav Ghosh

Question 4

- (i) Narrate the details of the letter from Nirmal, in the chapter 'Travels', which Kanai reads in the notebook. How did Nirmal and his boatman perceive Bernier's words differently? [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
- (a) Piya's encounter with Mr. Sloane, the dolphin. [10]
- (b) Horen. [10]

A DOLL'S HOUSE: Henrik Ibsen

Question 5

- (i) Do you view Torvald with sympathy or reproach? Support your opinion with reference to his words, actions, and attitude in Ibsen's play. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:
- (a) The role played by Krogstad's letters that directly affect Nora. [10]
- (b) Anne Marie. [10]

DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller*

Question 6

- (i) Critically comment on the title of Miller's play, *Death of a Salesman*. [20]

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) Linda's fury at her sons when they leave Willy at Frank's Chop House. [10]
(b) Reasons for change in Biff's attitude towards Willy. [10]

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – Ed. Chris Woodhead

Question 7

- (i) "Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard." [20]

The concluding lines of W.H. Auden's poem, *The Unknown Citizen* reinforce the poet's criticism of the absurdity of society at the time. Comment.

OR

- (ii) Write short notes on:

- (a) The language and imagery in D.H. Lawrence's poem *Discord in Childhood*. [10]
(b) Seamus Heaney's poem *Digging* as admiration of his Irish farming family. [10]