

12th
STD

HALF YEARLY EXAM - DECEMBER 2024 - 25

ENGLISH (With Answers)

Time Allowed : 3.00 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 90

PART - I

Answer **all** the questions. Choose the **most appropriate** answer from the given **four** alternatives and write the option code and the corresponding answer. **(20×1=20)**

Choose the **synonym** of the **underlined** word in the following sentences :

- They were childish and in many ways artless.
(a) innocent (b) artistic
(c) foolish (d) wicked
- Suffering seems so cruelly prevalent in the world today.
(a) bearable (b) massive
(c) unattended (d) common
- Individual liberty would have become social anarchy.
(a) welfare (b) anxiety
(c) lawlessness (d) deprivation

Choose the **Antonym** of the **underlined** word in the following sentences.

- There he was sitting in splendor on chair.
(a) dejection (b) simplicity
(c) shame (d) laziness
- One does not feel wiser, braver or more optimistic.
(a) pessimistic (b) realistic
(c) pragmatic (d) naturalistic
- From here, the ridge narrowed to a knife.
(a) Enlarged (b) widened
(c) big (d) broad
- Choose the word that can be placed after the word 'wind' to form a compound word.
(a) fan (b) proof (c) man (d) pulse
- Form a new word by adding a suitable prefix to the underlined word.
Fertile soil is essential for the growth of plants.
(a) un (b) ir (c) in (d) dis
- Replace the underlined word with a suitable phrasal verb.
The enemies stopped the water supply to the city.
(a) put out (b) broke in
(c) cut off (d) let in

- Choose the suitable meaning for the idiom in the following sentence.
The Finance Department should get the ducks in a row before the audit.
(a) be well - connected (b) be well - trained
(c) be well - organized (d) be well - advanced
- The study of principles of beauty is _____.
(a) aesthetics (b) numismatics
(c) phonetics (d) linguistics
- Complete the sentence choosing an appropriate linker.
_____ you register your name, you cannot participate in the Kalai Thiruvizha.
(a) If (b) otherwise
(c) as (d) unless
- Identify the correct combination of the word 'Sunlight'.
(a) Adjective + verb (b) Noun + Noun
(c) Gerund + verb (d) Adverb + Noun
- Choose the unclipped form of 'Sci-fi'.
(a) Scientist Fiction (b) Science Fiction
(c) Scientific Fiction (d) Sensitive Fiction
- Find out the correct sentence pattern.
Ravi gave Raja a pen on his birthday.
(a) SVOA (b) SVIODOA
(c) SVOAA (d) SVOCA
- Choose the appropriate question tag and complete the sentence.
Don't commit this mistake again _____?
(a) do you? (b) would you?
(c) will you? (d) won't you?
- Pick out the word that has been spelt correctly from the options given.
(a) awefully (b) awfully
(c) awefully (d) awfully

18. Choose the monosyllabic word from the given option.
(a) trifle (b) alarm (c) vague (d) worthy
19. What is the expansion of 'EMI'?
(a) Easy Monthly Installment
(b) Easy Money Investment
(c) Equated Monthly Installment
(d) Equal Modern Income
20. Choose the right plural form of the word 'apparatus'.
(a) apparatuses (b) apparati
(c) apparatusis (d) apparaties

PART - II : Section - 1

Choose the **FOUR** of the following sets of poetic lines and answer the questions that follow:
(4×2=8)

21. *"Legs wide, arms locked behind.
As if to balance the prone brow".*
(a) Whose action is described here?
(b) What is meant by 'prone brow'?
22. *"..... and free imaginations
Bringing changes into a world resenting change".*
(a) How does free imaginations help the world?
(b) Identify the figure of speech.
23. *"..... for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die".*
(a) What was Ulysses 'purpose in life'?
(b) How long would his venture last?
24. *Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation".*
(a) Which stage is referred here and what's its feature?
(b) Explain 'bubble reputation'.
25. *"The giant wears the scarf, and flowers are hung,
In crimson clusters all the bough among!".*
(a) Who is the giant here?
(b) Pick out the words of alliteration in the given lines.
26. *"Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,
So smooth and high, no man could wind".*
(a) How safe was the castle?
(b) What was the firm belief of the soldiers?

Section - 2

Do as directed.

Answer **ANY THREE** questions. (3×2=6)

27. Rewrite in Indirect Speech :
Teacher said, "The Govt. exams begin from 3rd of March 2025".
28. If I had come earlier, I would have attended the interview. (Begin with 'Had')
29. My mother is knitting the sweaters. (Change into the other voice)
30. After removing the shoes, the boy jumped into the river. (Rewrite as a compound sentence)

PART - III : Section - 1

Answer **ANY SEVEN** of the following questions. Explain **any two** of the following with reference to the context. (2×3=6)

31. *"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield".*
32. *"I am killed, Sire! And his Chief beside,
Smiling, the boy fell dead".*
33. *"And one man in his time plays many parts".*

Section - 2

Answer **any two** of the following questions in not more than 30 words. (2×3=6)

34. How did the liberty cause universal chaos and define the word 'Liberty drunk'.
35. What were the various jobs undertaken by Nicola and Jacopo?
36. How was the chair made and how were they compared?

Section - 3

Answer **any three** of the following : (3×3=9)

37. Write a slogan on each of the following topics.
(a) Avoid junk food (b) Save Electricity
(c) Planting trees
38. Choose the right word from the list and complete the proverbs given below.
(a) Keep your friends close and your ____ closer.
i) relatives ii) enemies iii) neighbours
(b) Variety is the _____ of life.
i) source ii) spice iii) Need
(c) Necessity is the mother of _____.
i) adventure ii) innovation iii) Invention
39. Write the methods to open an account in the post office.

40. Rearrange the jumbled sentence.

- (a) a road / never / a turning / without / there is
 (b) spoil / and / rod / spare / the / child / the
 (c) before / don't / chickens / hatch / your / count / they

PART - IV**Answer all the following questions. (7×5=35)****41. Answer the following in a paragraph of about 150 words.**

- (a) Narrate the humorous incidents that happened in the author's home after the arrival of the chair. (OR)
 (b) Enumerate the eleven golden rules to be followed to prepare a perfect cup of tea, as suggested by George Orwell.

42. Answer the following in a paragraph of about 150 words.

- (a) Describe the various stages of a man's life picturised in the poem 'All the World's a Stage'. (OR)
 (b) Bring out the qualities of the young French soldier as portrayed by the poet in 'Incident of the French Camp'.

43. Develop the following hints into a paragraph of about 150 words.

- (a) Aksionov - young merchant of Vladimir - small family - trip to Nizhny Fair - meets merchant friend - stays at inn - Aksionov arrested - murder case - shifted to mines of Siberia - innocent convict for 26 years - grew old and weak - spent time in prayers - life of saint - respected by inmates - meets Makar saves him - Makar feels guilty - confesses him crime - Aksionov forgives criminal - dies peacefully - order for release. (OR)
 (b) Lord Weston - Judge in England - Roger's request - holiday - not happy - discovers a piece of paper - "Remember Caesar" - plot to kill - victim of fair judgement - warning message on Caesar's assassination - 15th March - takes precautionary measures - shuts doors and windows - sends away cook and gardener - Weston recollects - reminder message - Caesar, a gardener - appointment given - Weston's absent - mindedness.

44. (a) Write a summary or make notes of the following passage.

Have you ever tried taking notes in class, missing certain words and your pen cannot keep up with

your teacher's speaking speed? How about we tell you there is a way to write as fast as the speaker? A way to capture every word with perfect accuracy is refer to stenography!

Shorthand is widely referred to as stenographer - an art of writing quickly using specialised symbols and abbreviations. The word's stenography' is derived from the Greek 'steno' meaning narrow and 'graphein' meaning to write.

Advantages of stenography in today's time

Accuracy : Stenographers capture every spoken word with precision and accuracy to provide comprehensive transcripts.

Speed : Stenographers can type up to 225 words per minute which makes them essential for live reporting. Stenography allows people to write every essence of the spoken words.

Security : In a legal proceeding or important meetings, it is important to keep the matter confidential that's when stenographers come into play. They provide a sense of security by transcribing in steno language that is not always understandable by digital system or people.

Reliability : No one knows when a tech malfunction can happen that is when the stenographer helps. This reliability makes stenography a valuable tool in situations where accurate documentation is extremely essential. "Your stenography skills will take you places where words matter the most - and that is everywhere".

(OR)

(b) Write a paragraph of about 150 words on 'The importance of following the rules and regulations of an educational institution'.

45. (a) Recently you ordered a mobile phone through online shopping and when it arrived, it was found damaged **Write a Letter** to the company stating the damage and state what you want them to do for you.

(OR)

(b) Write a letter to your uncle about parking his vehicle safely before the start of the heavy rains.

46. (a) Spot the error and write the corrected sentences.

- (a) It will be waste to throwing the food away.
- (b) Let's change the curtains today, can we?
- (c) This is the most least mark, I have ever scored.
- (d) I prefer coffee than tea.
- (e) Blessy is my cousin sister.

(OR)

(b) Do as directed.

- (a) If I ____ (see) your message I would have told you the portions for the half yearly exam. (use the correct form of the verb)
- (b) Can you get me _____ butter? (use an appropriate determiner)
- (c) I _____ like to meet you in person and discuss the matter. (Fill in with a modal verb)
- (d) He _____ (threw / through) the book out of the window. (choose the appropriate word)
- (e) _____ I got up early, I managed to reach the school on time. (use an appropriate linker)

47. (a) Develop the following hints into a story.

One day a lion - sleeping - forest. A small mouse - nearby. It started - the body of the lion. This - the lion's sleep, and he - angry. The lion - to - the mouse by - it. The scared mouse - forgiveness - lion. Further, he - save the lion one day. He - net - the mouse go off. Some days later, the lion - caught in -'s net. The lion - tried to - himself, but he could not. He started to - in fear and sorrow. The mouse - the lion's - and came to his - The mouse - the net with - he net - up, and the lion - The lion - the mouse with all his heart. He - that no matter whether someone is - or I, anybody can - the other person in - anytime.

(OR)

(b) Read the following passage and answer in your own words the questions given below.

The government is taking seriously the issue of road safety and is committed to reducing the member of people killed in accidents. Discussions are being conducted regularly to bring law makers, law enforcement officers and road users together to discuss

ways to tackle the rise in road accidents. Everyone agrees that more needs to be done or road safety it's determination to curb the rate of road accidents in the country. The government is making serious efforts to instill proper road culture in children, young adults and the public in general within 10 months the traffic police issued 1,43,077 summonsed to motorists for traffic light defaulters by making them pay hefty fines. Typical reasons given for beating traffic lights include rushing to an urgent appointment or even worse, to be completely oblivious of the changing of the lights. Usual punishments include a fine, ban on driving for a specified time and may even be a prison sentence. Sometimes, the court may even order to pay out compensation if death occurs as a result of the accident.

Questions :

- (a) Why is government taking the issue of road safety seriously?
- (b) What steps is the government taking to tackle the rise in road accidents?
- (c) How many people were caught breaking the rules about traffic lights in the first ten months?
- (d) Give reasons why people said they broke the rules about traffic lights.
- (e) Name some of the usual punishments given to those breaking the traffic rules.

Answers

PART - I

- 1. (a) innocent
- 2. (d) common
- 3. (c) lawlessness
- 4. (b) simplicity
- 5. (a) pessimistic
- 6. (b) widened
- 7. (b) proof
- 8. (c) infertile
- 9. (c) cut off
- 10. (c) be well - organized
- 11. (a) aesthetics
- 12. (d) Unless
- 13. (b) Noun + Noun
- 14. (b) Science Fiction
- 15. (b) SVIODOA
- 16. (c) will you?
- 17. (b) awfully
- 18. (c) vague
- 19. (c) Equated Monthly Installment
- 20. (a) apparatuses

PART - II : Section - 1

21. (a) Napoleon's action is described here.
(b) The "Prone brow" means eye brow inclined downward. It conveys anxiety and concern.
22. (a) Free imaginations helps to bring changes in the world.
(b) 'Transferred Epithet' is used here. The people in the world are referred here to dislike the change.
23. (a) Ulysses purpose in life is to sail to new places beyond the sunset, and beyond the western stars to gain knowledge.
(b) His venture would last till his death.
24. (a) In the fourth stage of man life is aggressive and ambitious. He seeks a reputation in all that he does. He promises solemnly to guard his country and becomes a soldier.
(b) Bubble reputation means a short lived glory.
25. (a) The casuarina tree is the giant here.
(b) Alliteration : crimson - clusters
26. (a) The castle's gates were strong and the walls were thick.
(b) The firm belief of the soldiers was that no one could win them.

Section - 2

27. The teacher instructed the students that the Govt. exams begin from 3rd March 2025.
28. Had I come earlier, I would have attended the interview.
29. The sweaters are being knitted by my mother.
30. The boy removed the shoes and then he jumped into the river.

PART - III : Section - 1

31. **Reference** : This line is taken from the poem 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.
Context : Ulysses reveals that we are strong because of our will to strive, seek and find.
Explanation : The sailors, who are old have the will to seek out and face challenges without giving up. Ulysses call is an inspiration for all those who seek true knowledge and strive to lead meaningful lives.
32. **Reference** : These lines are taken from the poem 'Incident of the French Camp' by Robert Browning.
Context : The dedication, patriotism and determination of the young soldier are obvious here.

Explanation : The soldier proudly declared that he felt joy and thrill in giving his life for his country. There was a smile of pride and satisfaction on the young soldier's lips. He fell dead near his emperor's feet.

33. **Reference** : These lines are taken from William Shakespeare's poem 'All the world's a stage'.

Context : The poet utters these words when he wants to express how man enters the world.

Explanation : Shakespeare considers the whole world a stage where men and women are only actors. They enter the stages when they are born and exit when they die. One man in his lifetime, plays many parts.

Section - 2

34. When liberty is used without accommodating others interests, it will result in universal chaos. There is a danger of the world getting liberty-drunk these days because individual liberty is becoming social lawlessness, as everybody gets into everyone's way.
35. Selling fruits, shining shoes, hawking newspapers, conducting tourists round the town and running errands were the various jobs undertaken by Nicola and Jacopo.
36. The chair was made with black wood with mirror like gleam perfectly shaped front legs. The two chairs were compared to Rama-Lakshmana because they looked exactly the same.

Section - 3

37. (a) Pleasure on the lips, Lifetime on the Hips.
(b) Turn off the light, keep the future bright.
(c) Plant a tree and plant a hope for the future.
38. (a) (ii) enemies (b) (ii) spice
(c) (iii) Invention
39. **Opening an account in the post office**
(i) Visit your nearest post office India Post and get the application form.
(ii) Fill in the form with appropriate information.
(iii) Complete the KYC process.
(iv) Make an initial payment to open an account.
40. (a) There is never a road without a turning.
(b) Spare the rod and spoil the child.
(c) Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Part - IV

41. (a) Before the arrival of the chair, a sub-judge visited the family. While he was sitting on the stool, he fell down with a thud and rolled over. As a result, the author, his brother and sister could not control their giggles. The author's sister tried to mimic the sub-judge. That lengthened their laughter.

The family decided to make two chairs. One for them and the other for Maamanaar. People in the village heard the arrival of the chair. They came in hordes to see the chair. An old man lifted it and commended the carpenter. The chair was asked by the villagers whenever there was a death in the village. It was used to prop up the corpse. Children were afraid to sit on it. Pedanna was irritated at times. Once, he sent the bereaved people to his Maamanaar's house to ask for the chair. Maamanaar gave his chair to the villagers. As it continued, he handed over the chair to the villagers to retain it for the same.

(OR)

- (b) George Orwell suggests eleven points to prepare a nice cup of tea. First of all, one should use Indian or Ceylonese tea. Secondly, tea should be made in small quantities in a teapot. Thirdly, the pot should be warmed beforehand. Fourthly, the tea should be strong. Fifthly, the tea powder should be put straight into the pot. Sixthly, one should add water with tea powder, while it boils in the kettle. Seventhly, after making the tea, one should stir it, or give the pot a good shake. Eighthly, the author prefers the cylindrical cup to a flat one. Ninthly, milk with Cream always gives tea a sickly taste. Tenthly, tea should be poured into the cup first before adding milk. Finally the author wants to tell the people that drinking tea without sugar will give the real taste.
42. (a) Shakespeare picturises the various stages of a man in this poem. He says that the world is a stage. All of us are actors in it. We enter the stage, when we are born and exit when we die. Every man during his lifetime plays seven roles based on age. In the first stage, as an infant, he is wholly depended on the mother. The second stage is a schoolboy crying to go to school. The third stage is a lover who composes sorrowful ballads to his lover. The soldier, who is aggressive and ambitious is the fourth stage. He seeks a reputation in whatever he does. Then comes the fifth stage, with maturity

and wisdom, the stage of a judge. He is firm and serious. In the sixth stage, we see a thin old man with loose pantaloons and spectacles. The last stage is an old and weak man in his second childhood. Slowly, he loses his sight, hearing, teeth and sense of smell. With this, the man's part in the play ends and he exits from the stages of his life forever.

(OR)

- (b) The young soldier fought courageously at Ratisbon. After French army had conquered Ratisbon, he himself hoisted the flag of France. He longed to convey the happy news of victory to the emperor. He wanted to be the first to announce the news of victory. Despite severe wounds he rode on his horse back at his fastest. He concealed his wounds and kept his lips compressed. He showed no sign of pain. He approached the mound where Napoleon was standing. He exclaimed with joy and pride that French had conquered Ratisbon. He fell dead heroically.
43. (a) Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov was a merchant. He lived with his wife and children in the town of Vladimir, in Russia. When he was young, he was prone to drinking, but after marriage he gave it up. One day, he went to the Nizhny fair. During his travel, he met another merchant. He stayed with him in an inn. Next day he left the inn before dawn. On the way, a local police officer arrested him. Aksionov was accused of murder. He was sentenced and sent to Siberia prison. For twenty-six years he lived as a convict. His hair turned grey. He often prayed to God. His fellow-prisoners called him as a Saint. One day, he met a new prisoner, Makar Semyonich and found out that he was the man who had killed the merchant. Later Makar dug a hole to escape from the prison. The Governor came and questioned all the prisoners to find out who had dug the hole. Though Aksionov knew that Makar was the culprit, he did not reveal. Thus he saved Makar. Eventually, Makar felt guilty and admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave him, accepted the truth, attained self-realisation and died in peace.

(OR)

- (b) Lord Weston was a well-known judge in England. He discovered a piece of paper with the words Remember Caesar in his pocket. He feared that the message was a warning conveyed by his enemies. As the message was

sent on the 15th March, the day Julius Caesar was assassinated, he was convinced that someone affected by his fair judgement was plotting his murder. Sensing the attack, he ordered his secretary to shut all the doors and windows. But his wife remained unperturbed by the threat. So, he was angered by her callous reaction. He ordered Roger to send the cook and the gardener away. Both Weston and Roger took elaborate precautionary measures to thwart the assassination attempt. Finally, Weston remembered that he had written the message "Remember Caesar" himself as a reminder. Caesar was actually a gardener who had an appointment to visit Weston's garden. The play revolves around Weston's absent-mindedness, which is the crux of the play.

44. (a) Note Making :

Stenography

- A. Stenographer
 - i) an art of writing quickly
 - ii) symbols and abbreviations
 - iii) narrow and graphein - 'to write'
- B. Accuracy

Comprehensive transcripts
- C. Speed
 - i) 225 words per minute
 - ii) live reporting
- D. Security
 - i) legal proceeding
 - ii) important meetings
 - iii) sense of security
 - iv) digital system or people
- E. Reliability
 - i) a valuable tool
 - ii) extremely essential

(OR)

Summary Writing :

Rough Copy : Stenography

Stenographers capture every spoken word can type up to 225 words per minute which makes them essential for live reporting. Stenography allows people to write every essence of the spoken words. In a legal proceeding or important meetings, it is important to keep the matter confidential that's when stenographers come into play. They provide a sense of security by transcribing in steno

language that is not always understandable by digital system or people. No one knows when a tech malfunction can happen that is when the stenographer helps. This reliability makes stenography a valuable tool in situations where accurate documentation is extremely essential. "Your stenography skills will take you places where words matter the most - and that is everywhere"

Fair Copy : Stenography

A way to capture every word with perfect accuracy is to refer to stenography.

Accuracy : Stenographers capture every spoken word with precision and accuracy to provide comprehensive transcripts.

Speed : Stenographers can type up to 225 words per minute which makes them essential for live reporting.

Security : In a legal proceeding or important meetings, it is important to keep the matter confidential that's when stenographers come into play. They provide a sense of security by transcribing in steno language that is not always understandable by digital system or people.

Reliability : This reliability makes stenography a valuable tool in situations where accurate documentation is extremely essential.

No.of words in the given passage : 228

No.of words in the fair copy : 94

(OR)

(b) The Importance of following the rules and regulations of an educational institution.

Educational institution rules play a crucial role in the social-emotional development of students. By adhering to these rules, students learn important social skills such as cooperation, respect, and empathy. Following school rules also fosters self-discipline and responsibility. When students understand the consequences of their actions and the importance of following rules, they develop a sense of accountability. This self-discipline extends beyond the school setting and can positively impact their personal and professional lives in the future. By following rules that promote inclusivity and fairness, students learn to appreciate and value the perspectives and experiences of their peers. This understanding of diversity and respect for others is crucial for building strong relationships and creating a harmonious community

45.

(a) From

XXX,

YYY.

10th December 2024

To

The Manager,

M/s. Venus Traders,

Plot no. 2597,

Sainik Vihar, New Delhi - 110034.

Respected Sir,

Sub : Defect in the mobile phone - Reg.

My order No : XMB003. Ordered on 4.12.2024 and delivered on 09.12.2024.

Product Name : Vivo V40e 5G AI Smartphone.

With reference to the bill No. IF065 dated 6th Nov. 2024, I regret to inform you that the Vivo V40e 5G AI Smartphone that I bought from your online shop was in damaged condition when I opened the package. There was a crack in the touch screen and was not working properly.

So I kindly request you to replace the mobile with a new one as early as possible.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

XXX

Address on the Envelope :**To**

The Manager,

M/s. Venus Traders,

Plot no. 2597,

Sainik Vihar, New Delhi - 110034

(OR)

(b) 10th December, 2024

15, 2nd Street,
Shanthy Nagar,
Chennai - 600 018

Dear Uncle,

How are you? I am fine here and hope you are fine there. I am writing this letter to let you know that there was heavy rainfall yesterday night in our city. It caused heavy damage to most of the buildings and vehicles in our area. So you park your vehicle very safely from heavy rains. Take care of yourself and I will meet you soon.

Yours lovingly,

XXX

Address on the Envelope :**To**

S. Balu,

10 A, Nehru Street, Madurai - 20

46. (a) (a) It will be a waste to throw the food away.
 (b) Let's change the curtains today, shall we?
 (c) This is the most least mark, I have ever scored.
 (d) I prefer coffee to tea
 (e) Blessy is my cousin sister.

(OR)

- (b) (a) had seen (b) some (c) would
 (d) threw (e) As

47. (a) **The Lion and the Mouse**

One day a lion was sleeping in a forest. Mouse started playing on it. The lion caught the mouse and tried to crush it to death. Mouse said sorry and said he would help him in the future. The lion left the mouse. One day the lion was caught in a net. It tried to break the net, but could not. He roared again and again. The mouse came there. It cut the net with its sharp teeth. The lion was free. He was very happy.

Moral : A kindness is never wasted.

(OR)

- (b) (a) The Government is taking the issue of road safety seriously because the rate of road accidents is increasing. It committed to reducing the number of people killed in accidents.
 (b) Discussions are being conducted regularly to bring lawmakers, law enforcement officers and road users together to discuss ways to tackle the rise in road accidents.
 (c) 1,43,077 people were caught breaking the rules about traffic lights in the first ten months.
 (d) 1. Rushing to an urgent appointment,
 2. Completely unaware of the changing of the lights.
 (e) Usual punishments include a fine, a ban on driving for a specified time and may even be a prison sentence. The court may even order to pay out compensation if death occurs.

