

**12<sup>th</sup>**  
**STD**

## PUBLIC EXAM - MARCH 2025

### PART - II

### ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3.00 Hours]

(With Answers)

[Maximum Marks : 90

**Instructions :** 1. Check the question paper for fairness of printing. If there is any lack of fairness, inform the Hall Supervisor immediately.

2. Use **Blue** or **Black** ink pen to write and underline and pencil to draw diagrams.

#### PART - I

**Note :** (i) Answer **all** the questions.

(ii) Choose the **most appropriate** answer from the given **four** alternatives and write both the option code and the corresponding answer for each question. **(20×1=20)**

Choose the **most appropriate synonyms** of the words underlined in the following sentences:

- These two children had given me a profound lesson.  
(a) genuine (b) complete  
(c) prosaic (d) very great
- They only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated.  
(a) perplexed (b) motivated  
(c) admired (d) discouraged
- Our father rejected it, saying it wouldn't be sturdy.  
(a) strong (b) fine  
(c) suitable (d) comfortable

Choose the **most appropriate antonyms** of the words underlined in the following sentences.

- We came upon them in the windy and deserted square.  
(a) empty (b) uninhabited  
(c) isolated (d) occupied
- Fortuitously, a guest visited our house.  
(a) unfortunately (b) luckily  
(c) happily (d) peacefully
- I experienced not only agony and fear but also anger.  
(a) surprise (b) pleasure  
(c) suffering (d) sorrow
- Choose the word that has been spelt correctly.  
(a) wearhouse (b) sepearate  
(c) foreign (d) secretery
- Choose the word that is not a noun.  
(a) stimulate (b) destruction  
(c) strength (d) wisdom

- Fill in the blank with the appropriate word.

There was a grand \_\_\_\_\_ of scattered plates and silverware after the show.

(a) feeling (b) final (c) finally (d) finale

- Fill in the blank with the suitable phrasal verb.

After a long break, the regiment began to \_\_\_\_\_ towards their destination.

(a) set off (b) set up (c) set for (d) set in

- Choose the polite alternative for the underlined word in the following sentence.

The burglars were sent to jail.

(a) rehabilitation centre  
(b) asylum  
(c) prison  
(d) correctional facility

- Choose the suitable American English word equivalent to the British English word in the following sentence.

Aswin bought sweets from the stall.

(a) jelly (b) candies (c) muffins (d) cream

- Choose the correct combination of the compound word - 'software'.

(a) Noun + Adjective (b) Noun + Noun  
(c) Adverb + Adjective (d) Adjective + Noun

- Choose the word that can be blended with the word - 'smoke'.

(a) hail (b) mist (c) fog (d) snow

- Choose the correct meaning of the Idiom in the given sentence.

When they had to climb through deep snow the party sometimes had to wait for the dust to settle.

(a) to wait for a long time  
(b) to wait for a situation to become clear  
(c) to wait for the guide  
(d) to wait for the Sun to set

16. Choose the suitable preposition to fill the blank in the following sentence.  
She was popular \_\_\_\_\_ her schoolmates.  
(a) along (b) with  
(c) among (d) between
17. Choose the right expansion for TNPSC.  
(a) Tamilnadu Public Science Council  
(b) Tamilnadu People Service Commission  
(c) Tamilnadu Public Service Commission  
(d) Tamilnadu Pupil Service Commission
18. Choose the appropriate linker.  
We fail to harness the rain water, \_\_\_\_\_ we suffer.  
(a) consequently (b) nevertheless  
(c) besides (d) whereas
19. Choose the appropriate determiner.  
There are only \_\_\_\_\_ chocolates left for you.  
(a) a few (b) more (c) much (d) a little
20. Choose the right article and fill in the blank.  
Radha is \_\_\_\_\_ tallest of the three.  
(a) the (b) an  
(c) no article (d) a

**PART - II : Section - 1**

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

21. *This is my son, mine own Telemachus  
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle  
Well-loved of me,*  
(a) What does 'the sceptre' mean?  
(b) Whom does Ulysses entrust his Kingdom to?
22. *A creeper climbs, in whose embraces bound  
No other tree could live.*  
(a) How does the tree survive the tight hold of the creeper?  
(b) Pick out the words in alliteration.
23. *Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth.*  
(a) Mention the figure of speech employed here.  
(b) What does 'cannon' mean?
24. *Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,  
So smooth and high, no man could win.*  
(a) How safe was the castle?  
(b) What was the firm belief of the soldiers?

25. *Tell him solitude is creative if he is strong  
and the final decisions are made in silent rooms.*  
(a) Can being in solitude help a strong human being? How?  
(b) Identify the poetic device used here.
26. *With neck out-thrust, you fancy how,  
Legs wide, arms locked behind,  
As if no balance the prone brow  
Oppressive with its mind.*  
(a) Identify the rhyme scheme of the given lines.  
(b) Whose action is described here.

**Section - 2**

Do as directed.

Answer **any three** questions.

(3×2=6)

27. Please tell me what the time is.  
(Rewrite as a Simple sentence)
28. The chief guest was distributing the prizes.  
(Change into Passive Voice)
29. Unless we plant more trees, we cannot save our planet. (Rewrite using 'if' without changing the meaning)
30. Change into reported speech.  
The manager said, "I will speak to you on Friday".

**PART - III : Section - 1**

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

31. Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.
32. It is the tree's lament, an eerie speech, ...
33. To follow knowledge like a sinking star,  
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.

**Section - 2**

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

34. Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopa.
35. What did Tenzing and Edmund Hillary gift to the Gods of lofty Summit?
36. Why did the family find it difficult to make a chair?

**Section - 3**

Answer **any three** of the following.

(3×3=9)

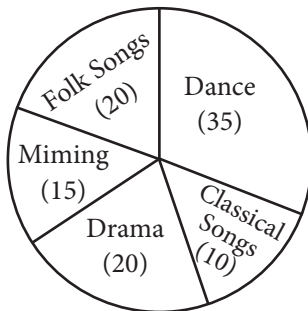
37. Create a catchy slogan for each of the following topics.  
(a) Junk Food (b) Save Water (c) Eye Donation

38. Extend the conversation with **three** more relevant exchanges.

Passenger : Has the Rockfort Express arrived?  
 Railway Staff : No, it will arrive in ten minutes.  
 Passenger : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Railway Staff : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Passenger : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Railway Staff : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Passenger : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Railway Staff : \_\_\_\_\_

39. Study the following pie-chart and answer the questions given below :

The pie-chart represents the number of participants in School Annual Day events.



- (i) How many students participated in dance and drama?  
 (ii) Which event has the least number of participants?  
 (iii) Write true or false:

Drama and Folk Songs have equal number of participants.

40. Describe the process of preparing apple juice.

#### PART - IV

Answer the following. (7×5=35)

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

(a) Summarise George Orwell's distinctive ideas in "A Nice Cup of Tea".

(OR)

(b) What do you infer from Gardiner's essay 'On the Rule of the Road'?

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) What is the role of the young soldier in the victory of the French at Ratisbon?

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

(a) Pi Patel - Indian boy - 227 days - shipwreck - Bengal tiger - Richard Parker - hyena - search water - succeeded - cans of drinking water - left Richard Parker in a jungle - reunited.

(OR)

(b) The Scientist - Venus - children wait for Sun - seven years - getting ready - Margot - William - rain stopped - Sun comes out - started raining - let her out.

44. (a) Write a summary of the following passage.

In recent years, environmental pollution has increased so much that it has become a global problem. Almost all cities in Asian Countries face this problem. The causes of environmental pollution are quite obvious. Vehicles burn petrol and emit toxic smoke. Various chemical factories pollute the air as well as water. Water is so contaminated because of effluents that both marine and organic life is destroyed. The ozone layer has developed a big hole due to this pollution and lets in harmful rays.

This environmental pollution has begun to affect human health. School children are easy victims to this pollution because they come in direct contact with fumes from the exhaust pipes of the vehicles. Crops have failed in many places. Flora and Fauna have been deeply affected. The sea water level has begun to rise and coastal cities may sink due to this.

We need to pay attention to this as human survival is in grave danger. More and more trees should be planted in every available inch of land. A public awareness programme must be launched to fight this manmade menace.

(OR)

(b) Write a paragraph in about 150 words on 'The Hazards of the Internet'.

45. (a) Write a letter to the Manager of Waves Furniture Company ordering furniture for a coaching centre. Include the following details : description of the furniture, number of pieces, mode of payment, time and delivery options.

(OR)

(b) Write a letter to your friend describing how you celebrated Pongal.

## 46. (a) Fill in the blanks appropriately.

- (i) Nobody can solve this issue, \_\_\_\_\_.  
[Add a suitable question tag]
- (ii) She bought \_\_\_\_\_ useful gadget.  
[Fill in with appropriate determiner]
- (iii) I \_\_\_\_\_ like to have a cup of tea.  
[Fill in with suitable modal verb]
- (iv) The police tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the information from the culprit regarding the source of \_\_\_\_\_ materials. [elicit / illicit]

(OR)

## (b) Identify the error in each of the following sentences and correct them appropriately.

- (i) Oxygen is more heavier than hydrogen.
- (ii) It was a shame breaking up.
- (iii) Professor Uma is not only a writer but an actor.
- (iv) A man walked through the bank of the river.
- (v) If you exercise regularly, you would become strong.

## 47. (a) Prepare a dialogue between Rahim and Ragav discussing their preparation for a tour, in not less than five exchanges.

(OR)

## (b) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

When Andrew Carnegie came to America from Scotland, he was just a lad. He started out by running errands and ended up as one of the largest steel manufacturers in the United States. Someone once asked Mr. Carnegie how he dealt with people. Andrew Carnegie replied, "Dealing with people is a lot like digging for gold. When you go digging for an ounce of gold, you have to move tons of dirt. But when you go digging, you don't go looking for a dirt, you go looking for the gold."

Andrew Carnegie's reply has a very important message. Though sometimes it may not be apparent, there is something positive in every person and every situation. We have to look deep for the positive.

## Questions :

- (i) Who is Andrew Carnegie?
- (ii) Where did he come from?
- (iii) How did Carnegie start out in his career?

- (iv) What does Carnegie compare dealing with people to?
- (v) Pick one word from the passage that means the opposite of 'shallow'.

**Answers****PART - I**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. (d) very great                               | 2. (b) motivated |
| 3. (a) strong                                   | 4. (d) occupied  |
| 5. (a) unfortunately                            | 6. (b) pleasure  |
| 7. (c) foreign                                  | 8. (a) stimulate |
| 9. (d) finale                                   | 10. (a) set off  |
| 11. (d) correctional facility                   | 12. (b) candies  |
| 13. (d) Adjective + Noun                        | 14. (c) smokefog |
| 15. (b) to wait for a situation to become clear |                  |
| 16. (c) among                                   |                  |
| 17. (c) Tamilnadu Public Service Commission     |                  |
| 18. (a) consequently                            |                  |
| 19. (a) a few                                   |                  |
| 20. (a) the                                     |                  |

**PART - II : Section - 1**

21. (a) 'Sceptre' is an ornamental rod carried by the rulers as a symbol of sovereignty.
- (b) Ulysses entrusts his kingdom to his son Telemachus in his absence.
22. (a) The tree survives the tight hold of the creeper because the tree is very strong.
- (b) Alliteration : creeper - climbs
23. (a) **Metaphor.** The reputation of the soldier is indirectly compared to a bubble.
- (b) Cannon means "a large gun".
24. (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.
25. (a) Yes, solitude helps a strong human being through creativity.
- (b) Personification
26. (a) The rhyming scheme : a b a b
- (b) Napoleon's action is described here.

**Section - 2**

27. Please tell me the time.
28. The prizes were being distributed by the chief guest.



29. If we plant more trees, we can save our planet.

30. The manager said that he would speak to me on Friday.

### **PART - III : Section - 1**

31. **Reference** : This line is taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

**Context** : The poet tells that humbleness and gentle nature can do wonders.

**Explanation** : The poet insists that if we are gentle, we can make our life fruitful. At times gentleness overtakes harshness.

32. **Reference** : This line is taken from the poem "Our Casuarina Tree" by Toru Dutt.

**Context** : The poet imagines that she hears a murmur which is the lament of the tree.

**Explanation** : The poet strongly believes that nature communicates with human beings. She could communicate with the tree even when she was in a far - off land as she could hear the tree lamenting her absence.

33. **Reference** : These lines are taken from the poem 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

**Context** : Ulysses continues to radiate a desire for adventure. Near the end of his life, he wants to make the most of what's left.

**Explanation** : Ulysses wanted to chase after knowledge and try to catch it as it sinks like a star. It has another meaning also. Ulysses himself could be a sinking star as he is a great personality, who is moving closer to death.

### **Section - 2**

34. Nicola and Jacopa had a shabby appearance. One had worn jersey and cut-off khaki pants. The other had shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds. They had brown skins, tangled hair and dark earnest eyes.

35. Tenzing gifted to the God a bar of chocolate, a packet of biscuits and a handful of lollies. Edmund Hillary gifted to God the Crucifix given by Colonel Hunt.

36. The family found it difficult to make a chair because there was not a single chair to show as a model in the village. And there was not a carpenter to make the chair.

### **Section - 3**

37. (i) "Pleasure on the lips, Lifetime on the Hips".  
(ii) "Teach your kids to respect water, So that they have it later".  
(iii) "Give Vision, Spread Light".

38. Passenger : Has the Rockfort Express arrived?  
Railway Staff : No, it will arrive in ten minutes.  
Passenger : Why is it late today?  
Railway Staff : There was some technical problem.  
Passenger : Has it been rectified?  
Railway Staff : Yes. It has been rectified.  
Passenger : Thank God.  
Railway Staff : Yes, we need to thank every one.

39. (i) There were 35 students in dance and 20 students in drama .  
(ii) The least number of participants were in Classical Songs.  
(iii) True

40. 1. Take a few apples. Peel, them cut into slices and remove the seeds. Put the slices in the blender jar.  
2. Add a cup of boiled milk and sugar. Add ice cubes.  
3. Blend it till smooth and then mix it with cardamom powder. Pour the apple juice in a glass and serve.

### **PART - IV**

41. (a) 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.

(OR)

(b) A. G. Gardiner in his essay 'The Rule of the Road' points out what constitutes true liberty. The rule of the road means that in order "to preserve the liberties of all, the liberties of everybody must be curtailed". When the policeman puts out his hand at Piccadilly Circus street, we must not think our liberty has been violated. If we are reasonable persons, we will reflect that if he didn't interfere, the result would be a commotion. We have to curtail our private liberties so that we can enjoy social order. Liberty is not a personal affair, but it is a social contract. It is an adjustment of interests. We have to preserve both the individual liberty and social liberty. By observing the rules of the road, we can judge ourselves as civilized or uncivilized. These habits of common place intercourse make our life journey sweet or bitter.

**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)** Pi was stranded in the Pacific on a lifeboat. As he looked around, he was shocked to find Richard Parker on board. He was pinned by weakness having had no food, water or even sleep for nearly three days. His search for water took him dangerously close to Richard Parker, but nothing could stop him- neither Richard Parker nor the hyena. Strangely his thirst overpowered fear of Richard Parker and he went about exploring for freshwater. A little later, he succeeded in his search, when he found stacks of cans of drinking water. Pi came back to life and senses after drinking the elixir of life. Then, he realized that Parker, who scared him earlier, brought him peace, purpose and wholeness. He understood that it was Richard Parker, who helped him survive for 227 days. Pi left Richard Parker in a jungle and reunited with his family.

(OR)

(b) A group of school children lived on the planet Venus with their families. They were nine years old. It had been continuously raining for seven years. One day the scientists predicted that the sun would appear for two hours. The children had only seen the sun when they were two years old. They had read about the sun. Margot was a thin, pale girl. She had lived in Ohio until she was five. She had many memories of the sun. Margot did not mingle with other children. The other children became upset about her and put her in a closet, while their teacher was away. After some moments, the sun appeared. All the children played and enjoyed the light of the sun. Then the rain clouds appeared. When a girl remembered that Margot was locked in the closet, the girls unlocked the door and Margot came out. She missed the chance to enjoy the light of the sun.

**44. (a) Summary :**

**Rough copy :**

#### **Environmental Pollution**

Recently, environmental pollution has increased so much that it has become a global problem. The causes are vehicles burn petrol and emit toxic smoke. Various chemical factories pollute the air as well as water. The ozone layer has developed a big hole due to this pollution and lets in harmful rays.

School children are easy victims to this pollution because they come in direct contact with fumes from the exhaust pipes. Crops have failed in many places. We need to protect this earth by planting more and more trees. A public awareness programme must be launched to fight this manmade menace.

**Fair Copy :**

**Environmental Pollution**

Recently, environmental pollution has increased so much that it has become a global problem. The causes are vehicles burn petrol and emit toxic smoke. Various chemical factories pollute the air as well as water. The ozone layer has developed a big hole due to this pollution and lets in harmful rays.

School children are easy victims to this pollution. Crops have failed in many places. We need to protect this earth by planting more and more trees. A public awareness programme must be launched.

**No. of words in the given passage : 182**

**No. of words in the fair copy: 84**

(OR)

(b) **The Hazards of the Internet**

The internet is a modern invention that connects the entire world. It has brought people closer together, breaking down barriers that once separated us and making everything more accessible. The internet helps us in many ways, like sharing information with people anywhere in the world.

While offering immense access to information and connection, the internet also presents significant hazards, including cyber-bullying where individuals can anonymously harass others online, the spread of misinformation and fake news, potential exposure to predators who may target vulnerable users, privacy breaches due to personal data being readily shared, and the risk of addiction to excessive online activity, all of which can negatively impact mental health and well-being if not navigated carefully.

**45. (a)**

**From**

XXX

YYY

6<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

**To**

The Manager,  
Waves Furniture Company,  
Kolathur,  
Chennai - 600 099.

Sir,

**Sub : Ordering furniture - Reg.**

We are in need of some furniture for our coaching centre. I am giving the details of the required furniture.

i) Writing tables - 10 Nos.

ii) Chairs - 30 Nos.

iii) Stools (small) - 10 Nos.

You can suggest the mode of payment. Delivery can be done via parcel service. We should be much obliged if you could send us the furniture at the earliest.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

XXX.

**Address on the Envelope :**

**To**

The Manager,  
Waves Furniture Company,  
Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099.

(OR)

(b) 16, Patel Road,  
Chennai - 39

6<sup>th</sup> March, 20XX

My dear friend,

I hope this letter finds you well! I wanted to share with you how much I enjoyed the Pongal holidays at my grandmother's house. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as we decorated the house with colourful kolams and prepared for the festivities. We performed the traditional rituals, and it was heartwarming to see our family come together to celebrate.

The food was absolutely delicious! My grandmother made sweet Pongal, which was my favourite, along with savoury Ven Pongal and other traditional dishes. Every meal was a feast, and I savoured every bite.

I truly had a wonderful time with my family, and I missed you during the celebrations. I hope to see you soon!

Yours lovingly,

XXX.

**Address on the Envelope :**

To

XXX

3, K.K. Street,

St. Thomas Mount, Trichy - 620001.

46. (a) (i) can they?

(ii) a

(iii) would

(iv) elicit / illicit

(OR)

(b) (i) Oxygen is \_ heavier than hydrogen.

(more → deleted)

(ii) It was a shame to break up.

(iii) Professor Uma is not only a writer but also an actor.

(iv) A man walked along the bank of the river.

(v) If you exercise regularly, you will become strong.

47. (a)

Ragav : Hello Rahim Shall we go for a tour this weekend.

Rahim : Yes. I feel very tired after the hectic work in our company

Ragav : That's why I want to go on a tour.

Rahim : Where shall we?

Ragav : Shall we go to Kodaikanal?

Rahim : Yes. That's a nice place for this summer.

Ragav : Can we start on Friday?

Rahim : Okay. We need to pack for three days

Ragav : Yes. Be ready to rock there.

Rahim : Yes. We will enjoy there for three days without any disturbance.

(OR)

(b) (i) Andrew Carnegie is one of the largest steel manufacturers in the United States.

(ii) He came from Scotland.

(iii) Carnegie started out by running errands.

(iv) "Dealing with people is a lot like digging for gold. When you go digging for an ounce of gold, you have to move tons of dirt. But when you go digging, you don't go looking for a dirt, you go looking for the gold."

(v) **Deep** is the opposite of shallow.

