

# COMPULSORY SUBJECT

## ENGLISH (801)

### Aims (English Language)

To develop the ability to:

- derive, infer and critically assess information through listening.
- express oneself by speaking individually, or in a discussion.
- read with comprehension drawing information directly or by inference from the text, through an understanding of grammar and structure, vocabulary and idiom.
- employ a variety of skills in writing : within a framework, using argument or imagination or note making and summarizing.

- use the English language for the purpose of study and social and cultural interaction.
- speak and write clearly and to the purpose, using appropriate grammar, vocabulary and idiom.

### Aims (Prescribed Texts)

1. To enjoy and appreciate literature through a critical study of selected literary works.
2. Through the study of literature:
  - approach an understanding of humanity.
  - develop an interest in the thought and culture of the peoples of the world.
  - develop the power of expression and a sense of aesthetic values.

## CLASSES XI & XII

There will be **two** papers as follows:

**Paper 1:** English Language (3 hours) – 100 marks

**Paper 2:** Literature in English (3 hours) – 100 marks

### Paper 1: English Language (3 hours)

**Question One:** A composition on one of a number of subjects. ...30 Marks

**Question Two:** Directed writing (article writing, book review, film review, review of theatre/ concert / cultural programme/ television show, speech writing, report writing, personal profile, statement of purpose and testimonial) based on suggested points...20 Marks

**Question Three:** Short-answer questions to test grammar, structure and usage. ...20 Marks

**Question Four:** Comprehension. ...30 Marks

It is recommended that in Paper 1 about 50 minutes should be spent on Question one, 40 minutes on Question two, 30 minutes on Question three and one hour on Question four.

### Question One

Candidates will be required to select **one** composition topic from a choice of six. The choice will normally include narrative, descriptive, reflective, argumentative, discussion topics and short story.

The required length of the composition is **450 – 500** words.

The main criteria by which the compositions will be marked are as follows:

- (a) The quality of the language employed, the range and appropriateness of vocabulary and sentence structure, syntax, the correctness of grammatical constructions, punctuation and spelling.
- (b) The degree to which candidates have been successful in organising the content of the composition as a whole and in individual paragraphs.

### **Question Two**

The piece of directed writing will be based on the information and ideas provided. The required length will be about 300 words. The range of subjects may include article writing, book review, film review, review of theatre/ concert / cultural programme/ television show, speech writing, report writing, personal profile, statement of purpose and testimonial.

Skills such as selecting, amplifying, describing, presenting reasoned arguments, re-arranging and re-stating may be involved. The candidates' ability in the above skills, including format will be taken into account as well as their ability to handle language appropriately in the context of the given situation.

It is emphasized that only one question will be set in the examination paper and that this will be compulsory.

### **Question Three**

All the items in this question are compulsory, and their number and type / pattern may vary from year to year. They will consist of short-answer, open completion items or any other type, which will test the candidates' knowledge of the essentials of functional English grammar and structure. Only two or three types will be included in any one examination.

### **Question Four**

A passage of about 500 words will be provided.

Questions based on the passage will be as follows:

- Questions that test the candidates' knowledge of vocabulary and ability to understand the content of and infer information and meanings from the text.
- A question that elicits the main ideas of all or part of the passage. This question will consist of **two** parts:
  - (i) In the first part, the candidate will be required to list the main points as directed, in point form. Sentences/phrases/clauses will be accepted, as long as the meaning is conveyed. In this part, marks will be awarded for content.
  - (ii) In the second part of the question, the candidate will be required to frame these points in a summary (keeping to a word limit), in a coherent manner. In this part, marks will be awarded for expression and the candidate's ability to summarise the points clearly in

complete sentences. Marks will be deducted for linguistic errors.

**It is recommended that part (ii) of this question be done in the grid form.**

**Use of abbreviations will not be accepted.**

All questions are compulsory.

### **Paper 2: Literature in English (Prescribed Texts) (3 hours)**

*Candidates will be required to answer **five** questions as follows:*

**One** textual question (compulsory) on the Shakespeare play/alternative prescribed play together with **four** other questions on **at least three** texts, which may include the Shakespeare play/alternative play.

Question 1 compulsory.... 20 Marks, four other questions, each carrying 20 Marks

(Note: Candidates are reminded that infringement of the rubric will certainly invite penalty during the marking of answer scripts.)

The textual question, which will be set on the Shakespeare play/alternative play, will contain **three** short passages and candidates will be required to answer questions set on **two** of the passages. These Questions may require candidates to explain words and phrases, to rewrite passages in modern English, or to relate an extract to the work as a whole.

The rest of the questions on the Shakespeare play/alternative play and on the other prescribed texts will require essay-type answers and will be set on the episodes, the plot or plots, themes or ideas, characters, relationship and other prominent literary qualities of the texts prescribed.

*NOTE: The Class XII - ISC examination paper will be set on the entire syllabus prescribed for the subject.*

*The Class XI examination is to be conducted on the portion of this syllabus that is covered during the academic year.*

*The Council has not prescribed bifurcation of the syllabus prescribed for this subject.*

*For list of Prescribed Textbooks, see Appendix I.*

**NOTE :**

**In addition to the syllabus prescribed above for Classes XI & XII, candidates at Class XI ONLY are also required to be internally assessed in listening and speaking skills as given below:**

**Listening and Speaking skills are to be assessed internally**, by the School, during English course work in **Class XI** and shown in the students' report and school record.

**Types of Assessment**

a) Listening Skills

A passage of about 350 words is read aloud, twice, the first time at normal reading speed (about 110 words a minute) and the next time at a slower speed. Students may make brief notes during the readings. They then answer objective type questions based on the passage on the paper provided.

b) Speaking Skills

Students are to be assessed through an individual presentation of about three minutes followed by a discussion with the subject teacher, for another two or three minutes.

Some of the themes to be addressed in the assessment are - narrating an experience, giving directions or instructions on how to make or operate something, providing a description, giving a report, expressing an opinion or a theme based conversation.

Candidates are to be graded as follows, jointly for Listening and Speaking Skills:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Remark</u>
A	Very Good
B	Good
C	Satisfactory
D	Needs Improvement
E	Poor