

MARKING SCHEME
ENGLISH ELECTIVE-(Code-001)
CLASS XII (2026-27)

General Instructions:

- i. The Marking Scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
- ii. If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note "Extra Question".
- iii. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.

SECTION A- READING COMPREHENSION		
1.	On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, answer the following questions briefly.	12x1 =12
I	C. Stable but lacking public recognition	1
II	C. internally motivated and thoughtful	1
III	B. loss of professional relevance and routine	1
IV	B. It reinforces the idea of unnoticed but meaningful effort	1
V	C. suggest consistency as a meaningful form of contribution	1
VI	C. personal fulfilment beyond recognition	1
VII	B. valued internal satisfaction over validation	1
VIII	C. continuity independent of ambition	1
IX	A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.	1
X	B. reflective and understated	1
XI	C. He acknowledges it calmly without relying on it	1
XII	The gardener's remark underscores the value of consistency and presence over recognition. It reinforces the passage's theme that small, repeated efforts have meaningful impact, even if unobserved.	1
XIII	FALSE	1
XIV	A. Metaphor	1
XV	A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.	1
2.	Based on your understanding of the poem, answer FOUR of five given questions.	4x1= 4
I	It represents our highest potential or reaching to our highest capabilities.	
II	The poet considers heroism as a natural trait which exists within us on	

	everyday basis. It is an extraordinary event.	
III	B) Humans possess immense potential but dismiss it out of fear.	
IV	It could be fear of failure or responsibility.	
V	Reflective and critical.	
3.	Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FOUR of the given questions.	4X1=4
I	(B) The gender-equal status of the Paris Olympics has not yet led to increased investment in quality grassroots programs.	
II	54% (Over half, or 54 per cent, of women's sports fans only began watching within the last three years).	
III	False	
IV	The significance lies in demonstrating that the surge in audience interest is broad-based and non-traditional. A US university volleyball match setting a global attendance record proves that the enthusiasm is not solely confined to major, professionalized sports (like European football, which set the previous record) but extends to grassroots and non-professional female athletic events, indicating a fundamental shift in fan culture.	
V	(D) The skills developed—such as resilience, teamwork, and confidence—are critical determinants of leadership ability.	
	SECTION B APPLIED GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING	
4.	Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions. (Any eight)	8X1=8
I	The manager asked the clerk why he hadn't sent the application on time.	1
II	Being too tired, he could not complete the work.	1
III	He is an author who has won several national awards.	1
IV	The man who was arrested yesterday is a notorious thief.	1
V	No sooner did the thief see the policeman than he ran away.	1
VI	I am confident that he will succeed.	1
VII	He was appointed as the manager by the master.	1
VIII	Having finished her work, she left the office.	1
IX	She is not only a singer but also a painter.	1
X	The coach applauded the players saying that they had played exceptionally well.	1
5.	Attempt any three of the following four questions in 120-150 words each. - Content – 2 marks - Organisation – 1 mark (fluency, coherence, logical flow) - Expression – 2 marks (vocabulary, originality of ideas, grammatical accuracy)	3x5=15
I	Unlike the "blue dot" on a GPS, paper maps require spatial awareness. -Describe the initial "withdrawal symptoms"—the phantom itch to reach for a phone when a	

	turn is missed. ▪ Following a local's recommendation (the "scenic route") often leads to "hidden gems" (cafés, viewpoints) not indexed by popular travel algorithms. ▪ Relying on people allows you to pick up on local dialects, gestures, and hospitality—elements that are absent in a voice-guided AI. ▪ Without a screen as an intermediary, the brain becomes more attuned to sights, smells, and sounds. You "see" the city rather than just "following" a path. ▪ Digital fasting reveals how much of our identity is tied to being "reachable." The trip becomes an internal journey of self-reliance. (Answers may vary)	
II	▪ Youth today are often driven by a "pre-scripted" definition of success—high grades, prestigious degrees, and conventional careers. ▪ Creating a psychological burden where self-worth is tied exclusively to external approval. ▪ Chronic pressure to conform leads to "performance anxiety," burnout, and a sense of alienation. ▪ When personal desire is suppressed for too long, the result is often a deep-seated resentment toward the very society one sought to please. Any one example (Answers may vary)	
III	▪ AI is no longer a sub-branch of Computer Science but a "horizontal" technology. AI literacy is the foundational tool required to navigate 21st-century data structures in any field. ▪ Science: AI accelerates data analysis and predictive modeling (e.g., climate change or genomics). ▪ Commerce: It redefines market logistics, algorithmic trading, and consumer behavior analysis. ▪ Arts: It challenges the definitions of "creativity" and "authorship" through generative art and digital humanities. ▪ Students must understand algorithmic bias, data privacy, and the "black box" problem to become responsible citizens in an automated society. ▪ This isn't about teaching every student to code, but about teaching them to collaborate with machines, ensuring they complement AI rather than being replaced by it. (Answers may vary)	
IV	▪ When women succeed on a global stage, it forces a conservative society to re-evaluate the "physical and mental capabilities" of women, shifting the cultural needle toward equity. ▪ A World Cup win provides tangible proof to young girls that sports is a viable career path, not just a hobby. This representation is essential in dismantling the psychological barriers that prevent girls in traditional societies from pursuing their ambitions. ▪ A Women's World Cup win creates a new iconography where strength, strategy, and national pride are embodied by women, thereby diversifying the nation's collective identity. ▪ While a win brings temporary visibility, it does not automatically fix institutional disparities such as the gender pay gap, lack of infrastructure at the school level, or the scarcity of female coaches and administrators. ▪ Sporting glory is a necessary but insufficient condition for bridging the gender gap. (Answers may vary)	
6.	Read the questions below and attempt ANY ONE of the following: - Format 1 (heading + name of contributor)	1x5= 5

	Content –2 marks Expression – 2 marks (grammatical accuracy, vocabulary, coherence, fluency)	
I	1. Title/Headline: 2. Byline: 3. Introduction -The 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where, Why). Mention the date and location of the inauguration. 4. Explain the "Why"—the vision behind the club. 5. Describe the interactive session, the guest speaker (if any), or the first story shared. 6. Detail the turnout, the atmosphere, and the "vibe" of the audience. 7. A closing statement on future meetings or an invitation to join. (Answers may vary)	
II	1. Catchy Title 2. Byline 3. Contrast the "cubicle life" of previous generations with the "laptop lifestyle" of today. Define the Gig Economy as a market defined by short-term contracts and freelance work. 4. Focus on the technical and soft skills required to survive without a fixed employer. 5. Discuss the "Mindset Shift"—moving from an employee mindset to a "solopreneur" mindset. 6. Address the challenges (lack of benefits, income instability) to provide a balanced "analytical" view. 7. Summarize the need for "Future-Proofing." End with an empowering note about autonomy and self-reliance. (Answers may vary)	
	SECTION C TEXTBOOK & FICTION	
7(I)	Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:	6X1=6
(A)	Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:	
	I. False II. He had the appearance of a Talmudic scholar who had strayed into modern life. His face was pale, his beard sparse and red, his eyes blue and vague. He wore a tuxedo, but his bow tie was askew. His trousers were too long and his shoes looked too large. III. She had died ten years ago in an automobile accident. IV. When he began to dance, he did it with the gravity of a man performing a religious duty. V. Tricks of the mind VI. precise	
	OR	
(B)	Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:	
	I. Him" refers to the Buddhist monk Ananda. II. The "dust" symbolizes the lowest strata of the caste hierarchy. III. She learns that everyone has the right to serve and be acknowledged by the divine, no human being is inherently unclean by birth. IV. She uses this contrast to show the paradox of her life: while she is seen as "poisonous" (unclean/untouchable) by society because of her birth, her inner self is as pure and beautiful as a "flower". V. Personification VI. (B) Transformed, reverent, and spiritually awakened.	
7(II)	Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:-	6X1=

		6
(A)	Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:	
	I. A stately pleasure-dome, located in the exotic region of Xanadu. II. It signifies the sublime power and mystery of Nature, suggesting depths that are beyond human comprehension and control. III. The contrast between dark, untamed wildness ("forests ancient as the hills") and cultivated, bright beauty ("sunny spots of greenery" / "gardens bright"). IV.(B) Artificial enclosure and controlled perfection. V. Hyperbole VI. Decree	
	OR	
(B)	Read the extract given below and answer the questions which follow:	6X1=6
	I. Personification/Transferred Epithet II. The poet lists human-made chaos as "riots," "peace-march time bombs," while natural chaos is described as a "precise act of nature" involving lightnings. III. It implies that while nature may seem chaotic, its power is intentional. IV. (C) The vulnerability of human structures to the chaos of violence. V. zigzag VI. After riots, peace marches are held to mourn the destruction. However, there is a risk that this can lead to new conflicts between different religions. This tension can grow quickly and cause fights between communities, undoing the efforts to promote peace.	
8.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 30-40 words.	1x2=2
I	- She feels bound by her promise to her dying mother to keep the home together and care for her family. - Eveline is overwhelmed by anxiety about leaving familiar surroundings, even though her life in Dublin is unhappy. - She is incapable of decisive action at the critical moment. (ANY ONE POINT OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
	OR	
II	- Selling dreams is a means of economic survival, reflecting human ingenuity in uncertain circumstances. - Her dream interpretations show how narratives can shape reality and influence people's lives. - Her accurate interpretations suggest that destiny is inescapable. (ANY ONE POINT OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
9.	Answer any one of the following two questions in 40-50 words each.	1x3=3
I	- The speaker contrasts his own aging and weariness with the swans' unchanged vitality. - He emphasizes that the swans remain beautiful and energetic, while he feels loss and decline. - The swans symbolize permanence and continuity, unlike the speaker's changing life. - This contrast highlights the theme of time passing and human transience. (ANY TWO POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
	OR	
II	Sen refers to India's long history of reasoned debate and dialogue in public life.	

	- It includes discussions in religion, philosophy, politics, and society. - This tradition values pluralism and tolerance of differing views. - A major positive consequence is the strengthening of democracy and critical thinking in Indian society. (ANY TWO RELEVANT POINTS INCLUDING LAST POINT OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
10.	Answer any one of the following two questions in 120-150 words each-	1x5=5
I	- Donne uses shadows to represent concealment and misunderstanding in the early stages of love. - At noon, when shadows disappear, love reaches a phase of complete honesty and clarity. - As shadows lengthen again, they signify decline, doubt, and emotional vulnerability in mature love. - The shifting shadows reflect love's changing nature over time, not its permanence. - Donne suggests love is most fragile when self-interest and fear replace mutual openness. (ANY THREE POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
	OR	
II	- The stream-of-consciousness style allows Woolf to move freely between thought, memory, and perception. - Reflections on war emerge indirectly, showing its psychological impact rather than physical events. - Gender norms are questioned through the narrator's resistance to male-dominated authority and logic. - The fluid narration challenges rigid, conventional ways of thinking and categorizing reality. - This technique emphasizes subjective truth, suggesting reality is shaped by individual consciousness. (ANY THREE POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
11.	Answer any one of the following questions in 30-40 words.	1x2=2
I	- The Master seeks to assert moral and spiritual control over the Tiger through self-sacrifice. - The act symbolizes his belief in non-violence and inner transformation rather than physical domination. - It marks a turning point where teacher and beast confront fear and instinct, leading to the Tiger's submission. (ANY ONE POINT OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
	OR	
II	- Margayya desires social respectability and recognition in Malgudi. - His humiliation by authority fuels a need to prove his worth and power. - Economic success becomes, for him, the means to social dominance and self-validation. (ANY ONE POINT OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
12.	Answer any one of the following questions in 40-50 words.	1x3=3

I	▪ The villagers are initially terrified, highlighting Raja's reputation as a powerful and dangerous creature. ▪ Their fear reflects the natural awe and respect humans have for untamed wildness. ▪ As they observe him over time, some show curiosity and fascination, symbolizing the human tendency to be drawn to the exotic and unknown. ▪ Narayan uses this moment to contrast instinctive fear with moral understanding. (ANY TWO POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
	OR	
II	▪ Margayya procures sacred threads, incense, charms, and astrological charts. (e.g., charms tied around his body for luck). ▪ He performs rituals advised by priests to appease deities associated with wealth. ▪ These objects show his superstitious dependence on external forces for success. ▪ His reliance on ritual suggests a shortcut mentality, blending faith with financial ambition rather than ethical practice. (ANY TWO POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
13.	Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words.	1X5=5
I	▪ R.K. Narayan presents freedom not as physical independence but as inner awakening and moral understanding, traced through Raja's changing life stages. ▪ Raja's early life in the jungle appears free, yet he is ruled by instinct, fear, and hunger (his constant need to hunt and kill), showing freedom without awareness is incomplete. ▪ Though physically enslaved, Raja begins to observe human cruelty and discipline, marking the first stage of consciousness, even while chained and beaten. ▪ Living in the cage with the Master limits Raja physically, but the Master's non-violence and compassion awaken Raja's reflective self (e.g., the Master refusing to use force). ▪ Raja ultimately understands restraint, acceptance, and compassion, proving that freedom comes from self-control and awareness, not from escape or dominance. (ANY THREE POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	
	OR	
II	▪ Balu is not merely Margayya's son but a symbolic extension of his unchecked greed and moral decay, shaping the novel's cycle of rise and fall. ▪ Margayya sees Balu as a means to social success (e.g., excessive spending on education and indulgence), reflecting his belief that money can manufacture respectability. ▪ Balu's recklessness—drinking, gambling, and squandering wealth—directly causes Margayya's financial collapse, symbolizing how ill-gotten wealth self-destructs. ▪ Margayya's failure to instill values in Balu mirrors his own ethical emptiness, showing that material success without morality produces decay. ▪ Each financial rise tied to Balu ends in catastrophe, making the father-son relationship a metaphor for the inherent instability of greed-driven success. (ANY THREE POINTS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT POINT/S)	