

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH (801)

Aims (English Language)

1. To develop habits of:
 - (a) clear articulate expression, using accepted syntactical forms and structures, with a firm grasp of idiom;
 - (b) critical thinking, involving assessment and analysis of the written material provided.
2. To develop the capacity to critically and innovatively examine and to assess the value of passages of argumentative writing, to consider the assumptions upon which the arguments rest and to trace the implications that follow.
3. To develop adequate and appropriate vocabulary.

4. To develop the ability to comprehend and appreciate good prose.

Aims (Prescribed Texts)

1. To develop an appreciation of literature through a critical study of selected literary works.
2. To help students achieve through the study of literature, an understanding of the study of man.
3. To create an interest in the warp of thought which differs from that of the group to which the student belongs.
4. To develop the power of expression.

CLASSES XI & XII

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

Paper 1: *English Language (2½ hours) – 100 marks*

Paper 2: *Prescribed Textbooks (2½ hours) – 100 marks*

Paper 1: English Language (2 ½ hours)

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

Question Two: A short composition based on suggested points – a review or an article which may be descriptive or argumentative in nature. ...20 Marks

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

Question Four: Comprehension. ...30 Marks

Question One

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

The suggested 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 both the composition as a whole and the individual paragraphs.

Question Two

Candidates will be required to write a composition based on the information and ideas provided. A situation and the purpose of the composition will be specified. Skills such as selecting, amplifying, condensing, describing, presenting reasoned arguments, re-arranging and re-stating may be involved. The candidates' ability in the above skills will be taken into account and above all their ability to handle the language appropriately in the context of the given situation.

It is emphasised that only one question will be set in the examination paper and that this will be compulsory. The suggested length of the short composition is **200 words**.

Question Three

All the items in this question shall be compulsory, and their number may vary from year to year. They will consist of short-answer, open completion items or any other type, which would test the same areas of ability in English language. Only two or three types will be included in any one examination.

Question Four

For this question, a passage of prose of about 450-500 words will be provided. Questions based on this passage will be set to test the candidates' ability to understand the content and argument of and to infer information and meanings from the given text. Question to test the ability to summarize will be included. There will be no alternative questions. All questions will have to be answered.

Paper 2: Prescribed Texts (2½ hours)

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

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

Question 1 compulsory.... 25 Marks, three other questions, each carrying 25 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 context, plot or plots, characters and other prominent literary qualities of the works prescribed.

For list of Prescribed Textbooks, see Appendix I.