

HSLC PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION-2026

ENGLISH

Full Marks - 90

Pass Marks - 27

Time - 3 hours

007708

(The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.)

SECTION - A

Choose the correct option for the following:-

1X45=45

(Q. No- 1 to 45)

1. The Postmaster helped Lencho by ——
 - a) replying to his letter.
 - b) collecting money from his colleagues.
 - c) employing Lencho in the post office.
 - d) sending Lencho's letter to God.
2. Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks :-
I think Raj is stressed —— of his financial condition.
 - a) in
 - b) because
 - c) with
 - d) of
3. Name the literary device used in 'And no one buys a ball back.' (Hint : 'The Ball Poem')
 - a) Metaphor
 - b) Simile
 - c) Alliteration
 - d) Anaphora
4. Ausable turned a dangerous situation into an advantage by –
 - a) showing physical strength.
 - b) making up a believable story.
 - c) calling the police immediately.
 - d) hiding under the bed.

Or

The Hack driver called himself Bill because he wanted to —

- a) show honesty b) hide his real identity
c) introduce himself formally d) get directions.
5. Choose the indirect form of the following sentence :-
She said to the girl, "What is your name?"
- a) She asked the girl what was her name.
b) She said to the girl what her name was.
c) She told to the girl what is your name.
d) She asked the girl what her name was.
6. Lencho wished for a downpour or a heavy shower. Pick the option that correctly lists the correct match for the kinds of rain.

List-I

- A. Downpour
B. Heavy rain
C. Torrential rain
D. Drizzle

List-II

- i) Light rain that falls in very fine drops
ii) Very heavy rain, tropical rain
iii) Really heavy rain that comes very suddenly.
iv) It's coming down quite strong and you get very wet very quickly.

Option -

- a) A-(iii) B-(iv) C-(ii) D-(i) b) B-(iii) C-(iv) A-(ii) D-(i)
c) D-(iv) B-(i) C-(iii) A-(ii) d) C-(iii) A-(iv) B-(ii) D-(i)
7. Fill in the blank in the following sentence :-
Of all the fruits, mango is the —.
- a) sweet b) sweetest c) more sweet d) least sweet

8. Nelson Mandela believed that 'Courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it.' What does this reveal about his character?

- a) He never felt afraid.
b) He could hide his fear from others.
c) He acted bravely even when he was afraid.
d) He always avoided danger.

9. The Coorg Regiment's bravery in the Indian Army shows —

- a) The Coorgi's love for adventure and courage.
b) Their interest in sports.
c) Their need for fame.
d) Their dependence on public and private sector job.

10. The phrase "epistemology of loss" in The Ball Poem means—

- a) Contrasting ideas. b) Understanding the problem.
c) Nature of loss. d) None of the above.

11. "Belinda paled, and she cried Help ! Help !" The exclamatory mark conveys : (Hint : The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

- a) a feeling of anticipation. b) a feeling of excitement.
c) a feeling of sorrow. d) some thoughtful moments.

12. Read the statements 1 and 2 given below, and choose the option that correctly evaluates these statements.

Statement 1 : Amanda is a little girl who is often scolded by her mother.

Statement 2 : Amanda is always happy to follow her mother's instructions.

- a) Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
b) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.

- c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.
 d) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.

13. Name the literary device used in 'They bring me tokens of myself'.

- a) Anaphora b) Assonance c) Metaphor d) Alliteration

14. Identify the correct question tag to fill in the blank.

He will be there, ———

- a) willn't he? b) will he?
 c) shan't he? d) won't he?

15. Match Column A with Column B correctly : (Hint : Coorg)

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Coorg | i) Famous for bravery and hospitality. |
| 2. River Kaveri | ii) The author of the lesson 'Coorg'. |
| 3. Lokesh Abrol | iii) Originates from the hills of Coorg. |
| 4. People of Coorg | iv) A beautiful district in Karnataka. |
| 5. Coorg Regiment | v) One of the most decorated in the Indian Army. |

- a) 1-(iv), 2-(iii), 3-(ii), 4-(i), 5-(v)
 b) 3-(iii), 2-(iv), 1-(ii), 4-(v), 5-(i)
 c) 1-(iv), 2-(iii), 3-(v), 4-(ii), 5-(i)
 d) 1-(v), 2-(i), 3-(ii), 4-(iv), 5-(iii)

16. Horace Danby was fond of ———

- a) watching movies b) listening to music
 c) going to public parks
 d) reading rare and expensive books.

17. Rearrange these events as per the story 'A Letter to God'.

1. The postmaster was impressed by Lecho's faith.

2. Lencho had deep faith in God
 3. Lencho wrote another letter to God complaining about the missing money.

4. The postmaster put money in an envelope and signed "God".

- a) 1, 2, 4, 3 b) 2, 1, 4, 3
 c) 3, 4, 2, 1 d) 1, 4, 3, 2

18. The poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' emphasizes —

- a) Significance of 2005 b) Importance of humans
 c) Importance of freedom d) Importance of Tigers

19. Human beings have the mania of owning : (Hint : Animals)

- a) things b) charts c) money d) health

20. What is the central idea of The Ball Poem?

- a) Importance of sports.
 b) Understanding and accepting loss as part of growing up.
 c) Keeping our belongings safe.
 d) Playing with friends.

21. Repeated detours and enquiries by the Hack driver suggest he was —

- a) careless and forgetful.
 b) leading the lawyer away deliberately.
 c) looking for a lost item.
 d) trying to save time.

Or

What is the meaning of "bewildered"? (Hint : Footprints without Feet)

- a) perplexed b) confused

- c) puzzled d) all of the above

22. Choose the correct tense form and fill in the blank :-

We ——— each other for the last ten years.

- a) had known b) have known c) knew d) is known

23. Ausable turned a dangerous situation into an advantage by —

- a) showing physical strength.
b) making up a believable story.
c) calling the police immediately.
d) hiding under the bed.

Or

Horace was arrested on the basis of the ———

- a) lady in red's confession.
b) fingerprints left on the safe.
c) owner of the house complaint.
d) All of the above.

24. The conductor's repeated use of the word 'madam' shows —

- a) His respect for Valli.
b) His way of teasing her playfully.
c) His irritation towards her.
d) His surprise at her knowledge.

25. Given below are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct alternative from the following :-

Assertion (A) : Nelson Mandela became the first black President of South Africa.

Reason (R) : The ceremony saw the largest gathering of leaders from all around the world, present in South Africa to bear witness to such an extraordinary event.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A.
b) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
c) A is true and R is false.
d) A is false and R is true.

26. Choose the option that correctly changes the voice of the given sentence.

He has given up all hope.

- a) All hope is given up by him.
b) All hope are given up by him.
c) All hope has been given up by him.
d) All hope has given up by him.

27. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank :-

The owner of these books ———.

- a) have gone b) were gone c) has gone d) is gone

28. What makes the story "Tea from Assam" interesting for the reader?

- a) The legends and factual information about tea.
b) The quarrel between the two friends.
c) The suspense and mystery in the story.
d) The description of food in Assam.

29. Mr. and Mrs. Sharma have decided to ——— a child. Fill in the blank.

- a) Adept b) Adopt c) Adapt d) Opt

30. "The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane, societies the world has ever known". What structure is Mandela talking about?
- Racial domination against the black-skinned.
 - Poverty and suffering.
 - Discrimination against the poor.
 - Oppression of women.
31. In the line 'It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills.' What does the word 'magnificent' mean? [Hint : Tea from Assam]
- Ordinary and very simple.
 - Very beautiful and impressive
 - Dull, ordinary and boring.
 - Small, tall and simple.
32. Select the correct combination of sentence for the given sentences :
- Walk fast. You will miss the train.
- You will miss the train walk fast.
 - Unless you walk fast you will miss the train.
 - You walk fast you will miss the train.
 - You have to miss the train walk fast.
33. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.
- The new job isn't _____ different from the old one.
- most
 - much
 - many
 - some
34. Valli refused to get down from the bus at the town because –
- She was afraid of getting lost.
 - She did not have enough money for the return ticket.

- She wanted the thrill of the ride, not sight seeing
 - The conductor did not allow her to get down from bus
35. The postman went to the boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Why was the postman laughing heartily?
- Because the letter was written in beautiful handwriting
 - Because the address on the letter was unusual.
 - Because the postman did not like Lencho.
 - Because the letter had money inside it.
36. Read the following statement with reference to "Hack Driver" and choose the correct option.
- Statement 1 : The hack driver's name was Bill
- Statement 2 : The lawyer found Lutkins on the first day.
- Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
 - Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
 - Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.
 - Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.
37. If Amanda is an orphan, what will she do?
- She will roam about in the streets.
 - She will tease everyone in the streets.
 - She will not complete her homework.
 - All of the above.
38. What was Fowler's "first thrill of the day"?
- meeting Ausable in the hotel.
 - sight of a man with automatic pistol.
 - seeing a very important and private paper
 - sight of the hotel in the mid city.

39. After how many centuries of white's rule Mandela became South Africa's first Black President?
- More than three centuries.
 - Less than three centuries.
 - Three centuries
 - Five centuries.

40. Choose the correct option and fill in the blank.

He is the _____ of all the men in the group.

- stronger
- strongest
- as strong
- not strong

Question nos 41 and 42 are based on seen comprehension.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Coorg is often called the land of rolling hills. It lies midway between Mysore and Mangalore. The hills are covered with forests and coffee estates.

41. What is Coorg called?

- Land of rolling hills.
- Land of water.
- Land of thunder.
- Land of snow.

42. Where is it situated?

- Between Delhi and Agra
- Between Assam and Kolkata.
- Between Mysore and Mangalore.
- Between Kerala and Munnar.

Question Nos. 43-45 are based on an unseen passage.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :-

Marco Polo is indeed one of the greatest explorers of all time. It was he who first made a route across Asia to China

and first told the Europeans about the court at Peking. Marco Polo was the first European to describe Burma, Tibet and India and tell others of the customs and manners of the people. He talked to the Christians living in Abyssinia in Africa and describes the cold Arctic countries of the white bear, where people rode on reindeers and in dog sledges.

43. Marco Polo told the Europeans about _____

- the people of Asia
- the people of Abyssinia
- the court of Peking
- the Arctic countries

44. Go through the following statements and select the correct option.

Statement 1 : Reindeers and dog sledges are seen in the Arctic regions.

Statement 2 : These are used for communication purposes.

- Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
 - Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
 - Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.
 - Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.
45. Select the correct synonym of 'explorer' from the choices given below :-

- reader
- inventor
- founder
- discoverer

SECTION - B

Answer the following questions briefly.

2X10=20

(Question Nos. 46 to 55)

46. "But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks."

Do you consider the post office employees as 'a bunch of crooks'? 'If yes, why?', 'If not, why?'

47. Why were two national anthems sung on the day of the installation of South Africa's first democratic government?
48. What was a source of unending joy for Valli? What was her overwhelming desire?
49. Mention any two qualities of the people of Coorg.
50. "Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book while Rajvir was eager to look at the beautiful scenery outside."

Why was there a difference of attitude between Pranjol and Rajvir during their journey by train?

51. "His ball went. I would not intrude on him."
Why does the speaker choose not to intrude on him? Explain with reference to 'The Ball Poem'.
52. "On pads of velvet quiet
In his quiet rage."
Explain the underlined phrase with reference to 'A Tiger in the Zoo'.
53. Would you call Amanda a disrespectful child?
Provide reasons to justify your opinion.
54. "I think I could turn and
live with animals."
The poet Walt Whitman wishes to live with animals. Do you think the poet has taken a right decision? Justify your answer.
55. State the reason you think the poet named the animals Ink, Blink, Mustard and Custard.

SECTION - C

56. a) "Henry unintentionally saved Ausable's life." Justify the statement with reference to "The Midnight Visitor." 4
Or
b) "The woman posing as house owner's wife had laid out a careful plan to dupe Horace Danby."
Cite any two instances from 'A Question of Trust' that suggest the same. 4
57. a) Briefly describe the extraordinary behaviour of Mrs. Hall's furniture. (Hint : Footprints without Feet) 4
Or
b) Who is Bill? How did he befool the lawyer? 4
(Hint : The Hack Driver)

SECTION - D

58. a) Write an essay on any one of the following topics : 5
i) Your Favourite Book.
ii) The Importance of Discipline.
iii) Your Hobby
Or
b) Write a story on the basis of the following outline. Give a suitable title. 5
A poor cobbler lives happily ——— rich neighbour unhappy ——— gives the cobbler a lot of money ——— the cobbler loses sleep ——— returns the amount ——— becomes happy again. ∴
59. a) Write a letter to your friend telling him what you intend to do after the HSLC Examination. 3

Or

- b) Prepare a newspaper report using the information given below.

Do not add any new information.

— Annual Sports Week

— Kaziranga Public School.

— 13th Dec/25 to 19th Dec/25

— Various competitions held.

— Cultural programmes arranged

— Guests were invited

— Prize distribution on 19th Dec.

60. a) Translate the following into the language as per your MIL subject. 1X3=3
- i) A friend in need is a friend indeed.
 - ii) It has been raining since morning.
 - iii) Swimming is a good exercise.

Or

- b) Write the substance of the following :- 3

It is easy to acquire bad habits, such as eating too much food or eating too much sweets or drinking too much fluid of any kind or smoking. The more we do a thing, the more we tend to like doing it and if we do not continue to do it, we feel unhappy. This is called the force of habit and the force of habit should be fought against. Things which may be very good when only done from time to time, tend to become very harmful when done too often or too much. This applies even to such good things as work or rest. Some people form a

habit of working too much and others of idling too much. The wise man always remembers that this is true about himself. "I am now becoming idle," or "I smoke too much", and then adds, "I will get myself out of this bad habit at once "

SECTION — E

GRAMMAR

61. Use the correct form of the tense of the verbs given in the brackets :- 1X2=2
- i) If it ———, I'll not go. (rain)
 - ii) Father is not at home, he — out. (go)
62. Do as directed for the following :- 1x2=2
- i) The teacher said to the student, "Stand up." (Re-write the sentence using indirect speech)
 - ii) He does not know how to write. He does not know how to read. (Join the two sentences using 'neither..... nor')
63. Re-write the following as directed :- 1x2=2
- i) She is intelligent. (Turn it into negative without changing the meaning).
 - ii) It is a beautiful flower. (Turn it into exclamatory)
