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FOR HARYANA CLASS 11 PREPARATION

HBSE Class 11 Sample Paper 2027 English Elective Marking Scheme

EXAM	YEAR	TYPE	SUBJECT
Haryana Class 11	2027	Answer Key	English

MARKING SCHEME

MODEL PAPER (SESSION 2026–27)

CLASS: XI – ENGLISH (ELECTIVE)

Subject Code: 520 | Maximum Marks: 80 | Time: 3 Hours

Literature Textbook: Woven Words

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATORS

1. Evaluation must be done strictly as per this Marking Scheme. Personal interpretation or leniency beyond what is described here is not permitted.
2. For MCQ / objective questions (1 mark): award full mark for the correct option only. No partial marks.
3. For short-answer questions (2 marks): Content = 1 mark + Expression = 1 mark.
4. For long-answer / essay questions (5 marks): Content = 3 marks + Expression = 2 marks.
5. For Writing tasks — Debate or Paragraph (5 marks each): Format/Structure = 1 + Content = 2 + Expression = 2.
6. Accept any reasonable, relevant answer that is based on the text / poem, even if it differs from the suggested answer.
7. For comprehension extracts, minor spelling errors in reading answers should not attract deduction unless expression is wholly impaired.
8. If a student attempts more questions than required, evaluate only the first attempt and score out the rest.
9. Write marks for each sub-part on the right margin. Total must be encircled in the left margin.

SECTION – A : READING (Reading Comprehension) [M.M. : 10]

Q1. Unseen Passage — 'Reading and its Importance' (5 Marks)

2 MCQs + 3 objective questions, 1 mark each = 5 marks.

(1) According to the passage, what makes a good book different from entertainment ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) It stays with the reader and encourages empathy.

A good book lingers long after the last page is turned, opens new worlds and builds empathy — unlike transient entertainment.

(2) What does the passage say about students who read regularly ? (MCQ)

Ans. (c) They have better vocabulary, concentration, and analytical skills.

(3) What is the main concern about modern youth expressed in the passage ?

Ans. The main concern is that the habit of reading is gradually declining among young people, largely due to short video clips and social media scrolling.

(4) Mention any two ways suggested in the passage to cultivate a reading culture.

Ans. (i) Introducing reading programmes in schools. (ii) Maintaining well-stocked libraries. (iii) Setting aside daily reading time. (Accept any two.)

(5) What does the phrase 'a nation of readers is a nation of thinkers' suggest ?

Ans. The phrase suggests that reading develops critical thinking and intellectual ability. A society that reads widely will be intellectually stronger, more creative, and better equipped to solve problems.

Total: 5 Marks (2 MCQ × 1 + 3 objective × 1)

Q2. Unseen Poem — 'The River's Journey' (5 Marks)

2 MCQs + 3 objective questions, 1 mark each = 5 marks.

(1) What does the river symbolize in the poem ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) The journey of life – from birth to rebirth.

The river begins as a small trickle, grows, serves others, merges with the sea, and returns as rain — mirroring the cycle of life, death and renewal.

(2) Which poetic device is used in 'A trickle shy' ? (MCQ)

Ans. (c) Personification.

The trickle (water) is given the human quality of being 'shy'. It is not a simile (no like/as), not alliteration (no repeated consonant), and not a metaphor.

(3) Where does the river ultimately pour itself into ?

Ans. The river ultimately pours itself into the sea.

(4) What does the poet say happens to the river after it merges with the sea ?

Ans. After merging with the sea, the river does not truly die. It transforms into cloud, rain, and morning dew, and eventually returns to the mountains to begin its journey anew.

(5) In one word, describe the tone of the poem.

Ans. Hopeful / Optimistic / Serene / Philosophical. (Accept any one appropriate word.)

Total: 5 Marks (2 MCQ × 1 + 3 objective × 1)

SECTION – B : WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (Writing Skills and Grammar)

[M.M. : 20]

Q3. Debate Writing — Attempt any ONE of two (5 Marks)

Marks: Format/Structure = 1, Content = 2, Expression = 2. Word limit: 150–200 words.

Component	Marks	Criteria for Award
Format / Structure	1	Proper salutation to chair ('Respected Chairperson…'); clear 'For' or 'Against' stance stated; logical paragraphing; concluding statement.
Content	2	At least 3–4 relevant, well-developed arguments supporting the chosen stance with examples or evidence. Arguments must be coherent and on-topic.
Expression	2	Formal debating language; persuasive tone; varied sentence structures; correct grammar and spelling; smooth transitions between points.

Option (a): 'Scientific Progress Has Brought More Harm Than Benefit to Humanity'

For (supporting) key points: nuclear weapons, environmental pollution, bioweapons, e-waste, digital addiction, job displacement, climate change caused by industrialization.

Against (opposing) key points: medical breakthroughs, communication, space exploration, improved living standards, renewable energy, eradication of diseases.

Option (b): 'City Life is Far Superior to Village Life'

For key points: better education, healthcare, employment, infrastructure, connectivity, entertainment, opportunities.

Against key points: pollution, stress, high cost of living, loss of community values, nature, slower pace of village life.

Total: 5 Marks

Q4. Paragraph Writing — Attempt any ONE of two (5 Marks)

Marks: Title/Format = 1, Content = 2, Expression = 2. Word limit: 120–150 words.

Component	Marks	Criteria for Award
Title / Format	1	Appropriate title given; written as a unified paragraph (not bullet points or sub-headings).
Content	2	Clear central idea; 3–4 logically developed supporting points relevant to the topic; appropriate conclusion or closing thought.
Expression	2	Coherent flow; varied and correct sentence structures; appropriate vocabulary; minimal grammatical errors.

Option (a): 'The Role of Youth in Nation Building'

Expected content: youth as agents of change; education and skill development; social awareness; environmental responsibility; political participation; innovation; examples from history or present.

Option (b): 'My Favourite Season and Why I Love It'

Expected content: description of the season (any — winter, monsoon, spring, etc.); sensory details; personal connection; activities enjoyed; emotional effect of the season.

Total: 5 Marks

Q5. Integrated Grammar — 12 MCQs (1 mark each) (10 Marks)

Note: The paper contains 12 MCQs. Students answer all 12 but the section carries 10 marks. Award marks for the best 10 correct answers OR for all 12 (whichever is specified in the exam instructions). Each correct answer = 1 mark.

[MODALS]

(1) The doctor said she _____ take complete bed rest for a week.
Ans. (b) must

'Must' indicates strong obligation/necessity on doctor's order.

(2) You _____ wear your seat belt while driving.

Ans. (b) must

'Must' conveys a legal and safety obligation. 'Should' is also acceptable.

(3) He _____ have left the keys inside – the door is still unlocked.

Ans. (c) might

'Might' expresses possibility / deduction about a past action without certainty.

[ARTICLES]

(4) She has _____ MA degree in English Literature.

Ans. (a) a

'MA' is pronounced 'em-ay' which begins with a vowel sound. Wait — 'em' starts with vowel sound /e/, so 'an' is correct. Ans: (b) an.

Correct answer: (b) an. Reason: 'MA' is pronounced 'em-ay'; the sound begins with a vowel /e/, so 'an' is used before it.

(5) We visited _____ historical monument during our school trip.

Ans. (a) a

'Historical' begins with an aspirated /h/ sound (the 'h' is pronounced), so 'a' is used. ('A historic / a historical' — aspirated h takes 'a'.)

(6) _____ honesty is the most valued quality in a leader.

Ans. (d) no article

Abstract nouns used in a general sense (honesty, courage, beauty) do not take an article.

[TENSES]

(7) By the time the ambulance arrived, the patient _____ already.

Ans. (c) had died

'By the time' + simple past = Past Perfect in the other clause. The patient's death happened before the ambulance arrived.

(8) She _____ in this school since she was six years old.

Ans. (b) has been studying

'Since she was six' shows an action that started in the past and continues to the present = Present Perfect Continuous.

[VOICE]

(9) The new bridge _____ by the Chief Minister last Monday.

Ans. (b) was inaugurated

'Last Monday' = simple past. Passive of Simple Past: was/were + past participle. Subject 'bridge' is singular → was inaugurated.

(10) _____ the letter posted by you ?

Ans. (b) Was the letter posted by you ?

The active sentence is 'Did you post the letter?' → Passive: 'Was the letter posted by you?' (Simple Past Passive interrogative.)

[NARRATION]

(11) He said, "I will call you tomorrow."

Ans. (b) He said that he would call me the next day.

Rules applied: reporting verb past → 'will' becomes 'would'; 'I' → 'he'; 'you' → 'me'; 'tomorrow' → 'the next day'.

(12) The teacher said to the students, "Work hard and you will succeed."

Ans. (c) The teacher advised the students to work hard and assured them that they would succeed.

Imperative + conditional in direct speech → 'advised to…' + 'assured them that…would…' in indirect speech.

Total: 10 Marks (best 10 of 12 × 1 mark each)

SECTION – C : LITERATURE – WOVEN WORDS (Short Stories, Poetry and Essays)

[M.M. : 50]

Q6. Comprehension — Short Story Extract (5 Marks)

2 MCQs + 3 Very Short Answer questions, 1 mark each = 5 marks.

Extract: Based on a landlord-tenant / zamindar theme — characters: Sohrab, Baren Babu.

(1) What did Sohrab request from Baren Babu ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) A loan to save his fields.

(2) Why did Baren Babu refuse Sohrab's request ? (MCQ)

Ans. (c) He lacked courage to oppose the moneylender who controlled the whole village.

The extract explicitly states: 'He was not a cruel man by nature; he simply lacked the courage to oppose the moneylender.'

(3) What does Sohrab's bowed head suggest about his state of mind ?

Ans. Sohrab's bowed head suggests deep dejection, helplessness, and silent despair. He has received a refusal that offers him no hope, and he leaves without protest — a picture of quiet resignation.

(4) How does the author convey the wife's anxiety without making her speak ?

Ans. The author uses a powerful image: 'her eyes asking what her tongue dared not.' The wife's eyes do the speaking — she is too afraid to ask aloud but her anxiety is written plainly on her face.

(5) What does the phrase 'he only sat behind his accounts' tell us about Baren Babu ?

Ans. It suggests that Baren Babu has retreated into indifference and self-interest. Once kind, he now hides behind paperwork and financial calculations, distancing himself from the human suffering around him.

Total: 5 Marks (2 MCQ × 1 + 3 VSA × 1)

Q7. Comprehension — Poetry Stanza (Philip Larkin, 'Coming' / similar)(5 Marks)

2 MCQs + 3 Very Short Answer questions, 1 mark each = 5 marks.

(1) What does 'the evening coming in' most likely symbolize ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) The approach of old age or death.

The evening that 'lights no lamps', that 'brings no comfort' despite seeming 'silken' from a distance, is a classic symbol of the close of life / death's quiet arrival.

(2) Which poetic device is used in 'Silken it seems at a distance' ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) Alliteration.

Repetition of the consonant sound /s/ in 'Silken', 'seems' creates alliteration. (Note: 'Silken' is also a metaphor, but alliteration is the device asked about in this line specifically.)

(3) What does the poet mean by 'it brings no comfort' ?

Ans. Despite its soft, silken appearance from a distance, the approaching evening (symbolizing death or old age) offers no warmth, solace, or reassurance when it actually arrives and closes in on the speaker.

(4) What is the significance of the missing tree in the stanza ?

Ans. The tree, which once connected 'Earth to the sky', represents a lost anchor — perhaps a sense of meaning, connection to life, or stability. Its disappearance reflects the speaker's growing sense of loss and disorientation.

(5) What feeling does the speaker experience in the final two lines ?

Ans. The speaker feels a profound numbness and loss of sensation — 'What is under my hands, / That I cannot feel?' suggests a fading grip on reality, possibly the numbness that precedes death or deep emotional emptiness.

Total: 5 Marks (2 MCQ × 1 + 3 VSA × 1)

Q8. Comprehension — Essay Extract ('Patterns of Creativity' — S. Chandrasekhar) (5 Marks)

2 MCQs + 3 Very Short Answer questions, 1 mark each = 5 marks.

(1) What is the truest test of civilization ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) The kind of people the country produces.

The extract explicitly states: 'the truest test of civilization is… the kind of man the country turns out.'

(2) What distinguishes a creative mind from a merely clever one ? (MCQ)

Ans. (c) The ability to see new relationships and connections.

'A creative mind is not simply one that produces novelties; it is one that sees relationships and connections where others see only isolated facts.'

(3) Name any two types of creative individuals mentioned in the passage.

Ans. (i) The scientist (who discovers a new element). (ii) The artist (who reveals a hidden emotion in paint or stone). (iii) The poet (who strikes an unexpected chord of memory). — Accept any two.

(4) What common activity does the passage say all creative people share ?

Ans. All creative people — scientists, artists, poets — share the fundamental act of 'seeing anew': discovering fresh connections, relationships, or meanings that others overlook.

(5) What does the phrase 'strikes an unexpected chord of memory' mean ?

Ans. The phrase means the poet's words trigger a sudden, surprising resonance in the reader's memory — something unlooked-for that connects deeply with personal experience or forgotten feeling.

Total: 5 Marks (2 MCQ × 1 + 3 VSA × 1)

Q9. Essay-Type — Short Stories (any ONE of two) (5 Marks)

Marks: Content = 3, Expression = 2. Word limit: 150–200 words.

(a) Iona Potapov's grief — 'The Lament' (Chekhov)

Value Points — Content (3 marks):

- Iona Potapov is a sledge-driver who has just lost his son. He is consumed by an overwhelming grief he desperately needs to share.
- Throughout the story, he tries to tell his sorrow to his passengers — a military officer, three merrymakers, a yard-keeper — but none listens. They are indifferent or dismissive.
- Chekhov shows the tragedy of isolation: in a crowded city, Iona finds no human ear willing to hear him. His grief has no outlet.
- The story reaches its devastating climax when Iona, unable to find any human listener, tells his story to his little mare — the only creature that seems to 'listen'.
- Chekhov's central theme: the terrifying loneliness of grief in a society too busy and self-absorbed to notice others' pain.

Expression (2 marks):

- 2 marks: coherent, well-organized, fluent answer with accurate references to the story.
- 1 mark: ideas present but poorly organized or expressed with significant errors.
- 0 marks: irrelevant or no answer.

OR

(b) Significance of title 'Glory at Twilight' — Bhabani Bhattacharya

Value Points — Content (3 marks):

- 'Twilight' refers literally to the fading light at the end of the day — symbolically, to the closing years of a man's life.
- Srijut Sovan Lal is an ageing, forgotten moneylender. His life has been marked by frustration and a desperate hunger for social respect and recognition.
- His 'glory' arrives only at the very end — when he distributes all his money to the poor during a famine, finally winning the love and gratitude he had always craved.

- The title suggests that dignity and meaningful recognition can come even at the end of life — it is never too late for a true human moment.
- Bhattacharya uses Sovan Lal to explore how the desire for respect drives human behaviour, and how redemption is possible at any point.

Expression (2 marks):

- Award as above.

Total: 5 Marks

Q10. Essay-Type — Poetry (any ONE of two) (5 Marks)

Marks: Content = 3, Expression = 2. Word limit: 150–200 words.

(a) 'Refugee Blues' — W. H. Auden

Value Points — Content (3 marks):

- Auden portrays the plight of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany, unable to find a country that will accept them.
- Key images of helplessness: 'Ten thousand soldiers marched to and fro / Looking for you and me' — the state machinery hunts them; the consul's dismissal — 'Come back next year'; the committee's hollow sympathy; the bird that has a home while the refugee does not.
- The poem's blues structure (AAB rhyme scheme, repetition, refrain-like stanzas) mirrors the monotonous, relentless suffering of displacement.
- Repetition of 'my dear' throughout creates intimacy but also emphasizes the helplessness shared between the two speakers.
- The contrast between nature's freedom (fish, bird) and the refugees' trapped condition intensifies the reader's sympathy.

Expression (2 marks):

- Award as above.

OR

(b) 'Felling of the Banyan Tree' — Dilip Chitre

Value Points — Content (3 marks):

- The banyan tree being felled is the central symbol of the poem — it represents deep cultural roots, ancestral memory, family continuity, and belonging.
- The speaker watches the tree being cut down, methodically, branch by branch — mirroring the systematic dismantling of a traditional way of life.

- The roots of the tree — described as 'deeper' and harder to remove — suggest how cultural identity clings even when the surface is destroyed.
- The poem reflects the poet's own displacement from his traditional Maharashtrian home in Baroda — the tree's felling is also the felling of personal and cultural identity.
- Chitre uses concrete, visual imagery to show that uprooting is violent and irreversible, even when done calmly and practically.

Expression (2 marks):

- Award as above.

Total: 5 Marks

Q11. Essay-Type — Essays (any ONE of two) (5 Marks)

Marks: Content = 3, Expression = 2. Word limit: 150–200 words.

(a) Bertrand Russell's 'My Three Passions'

Value Points — Content (3 marks):

- Russell identifies three governing passions: (1) Longing for love, (2) Search for knowledge, (3) Unbearable pity for human suffering.
- Love brought him ecstasy and relief from loneliness; it showed him what life could be at its most beautiful.
- Search for knowledge led him to mathematics, the natural sciences, and understanding of human psychology — a lifetime of intellectual pursuit.
- Pity for suffering was not abstract — he felt it viscerally, seeing children starving, victims of oppression, and the lonely aged.
- Students may argue any one passion is 'most significant' with reasoning — award marks for a well-argued personal response.

Expression (2 marks):

- Award as above.

OR

(b) E. M. Forster — 'The Story' (story vs. plot)

Value Points — Content (3 marks):

- Forster's key distinction: a story is a narrative of events arranged in time sequence ('The king died, and then the queen died'); a plot is a narrative of events with a causal relationship ('The king died, and then the queen died of grief').

- Story appeals to our most basic, 'primitive' curiosity — the desire to know what happens next, the cave-man instinct of 'and then? and then?'.
- Plot demands intelligence and memory — it rewards the reader who notices connections, causes, and consequences.
- Forster does not dismiss the story; he sees it as the foundation upon which plot is built.
- The essay is drawn from Forster's 'Aspects of the Novel' — a key work of literary criticism.

Expression (2 marks):

- Award as above.

Total: 5 Marks

Q12. Short Answers — Short Stories (any FOUR of five) (8 Marks)

Each answer carries 2 marks: Content = 1, Expression = 1. Word limit: 40–50 words.

(a) Paul's obsession — 'The Rocking-horse Winner' (D. H. Lawrence)

Ans. Paul rides the rocking-horse in a frenzied state to achieve 'luck' and win money, hoping this will finally make his mother love him. Lawrence shows that in a house haunted by greed, a child mistakes money for love — a deeply tragic equation.

(b) Sherlock Holmes exposes Nathan Garrideb — 'The Adventure of the Three Garridebs'

Ans. Holmes is suspicious from the start because the name 'Garrideb' is too convenient. He discovers that 'Nathan Garrideb' is in fact 'Killer Evans', an American criminal, by tracing his identity through old records and confronting him at the crucial moment.

(c) Narrator's 'quiet revenge' — 'The Luncheon' (Maugham)

Ans. The narrator was once financially ruined by paying for an extravagant lunch ordered by a woman who claimed to eat very little. His 'revenge' comes twenty years later when he meets her again — enormously fat — a living irony of her past pretensions.

(d) Pappachi's discovery — 'Pappachi's Moth' (Arundhati Roy)

Ans. Pappachi discovers a new species of moth but is denied recognition during his lifetime. His frustrated ambition turns into a festering bitterness that he takes out on his wife Mammachi, whom he beats regularly — his domestic violence rooted in professional humiliation.

(e) Mrs. Croft — 'The Third and Final Continent' (Jhumpa Lahiri)

Ans. Mrs. Croft, a 103-year-old American landlady, represents old-world dignity, moral propriety, and quiet strength. Through her, Lahiri suggests that America, beneath its modernity, holds its own deep traditions — and that human connection bridges all cultural distances.

Total: 2 × 4 = 8 Marks

Q13. Short Answers — Essays (any FOUR of five) (8 Marks)

Each answer carries 2 marks: Content = 1, Expression = 1. Word limit: 40–50 words.

(a) G. N. Devy — oral vs. written literary traditions ('Tribal Verse')

Ans. Devy argues that oral traditions are dynamic, community-centred, and rooted in lived experience, while written traditions tend to be fixed, individual, and often shaped by elite cultural standards. Tribal oral literature carries a wisdom and vitality that written forms frequently cannot replicate or preserve.

(b) John Ruskin — qualities of a 'good book' ('What is a Good Book?')

Ans. Ruskin argues a truly good book is written by a master of his craft for a lasting purpose — it demands effort from the reader, speaks truth, and enriches the mind. He distinguishes 'books of the hour' (ephemeral) from 'books of all time' (permanently valuable).

(c) Mark Twain's humour in 'My Watch'

Ans. Twain uses self-deprecating humour to describe how every repairman he visits makes his watch worse rather than better. Each 'expert' confidently diagnoses a new problem, and the watch descends from being merely inaccurate to being completely useless — a comic portrait of misplaced expertise.

(d) Kumudini Lakhia — 'Bridges'

Ans. For Lakhia, 'bridges' are connections built between people, cultures, and experiences through art — especially dance. Art transcends language, geography, and social boundaries, creating a shared human space. A true artist, she argues, is always building bridges rather than walls.

(e) S. Chandrasekhar — 'Patterns of Creativity'

Ans. Chandrasekhar classifies creative minds into those who make one or two great discoveries and stop (like Newton's disciples), those who have a single grand vision (like Newton himself), and those with lifelong, sustained creativity across many areas. Each type contributes differently to human progress.

Total: 2 × 4 = 8 Marks

Q14. Short Answers — Poetry (any TWO of three) (4 Marks)

Each answer carries 2 marks: Content = 1, Expression = 1. Word limit: 40–50 words.

(a) Hawk's attitude — 'Hawk Roosting' (Ted Hughes)

Ans. The hawk presents itself as the absolute master of the world — it kills at will, holds all creation in its foot, and sees no need to argue or justify. Hughes uses the hawk's arrogant voice to reflect the nature of totalitarian power: self-righteous, unquestioning, and lethal.

(b) Humour and irony in 'Telephone Conversation' (Wole Soyinka)

Ans. Soyinka uses dry humour and irony to expose the absurdity of racial prejudice. When the white landlady asks the poet to describe the shade of his skin ('How dark? Are you light or very dark?'), the polite bureaucracy of racism is made grotesque. The poet's witty responses highlight the landlady's ignorance.

(c) Wordsworth's lament — 'The World is Too Much With Us'

Ans. Wordsworth laments that modern humanity, consumed by materialism and commerce, has lost its connection to nature. He contrasts the rich spiritual life offered by nature — the sea, the winds, pagan gods — with the 'getting and spending' that deadens human souls to beauty and meaning.

Total: 2 × 2 = 4 Marks

MARKS SUMMARY

Q. No.	Section / Content	Marks	Choice
Q1	Section A — Unseen Passage (2 MCQ + 3 objective)	5	Attempt all 5
Q2	Section A — Unseen Poem (2 MCQ + 3 objective)	5	Attempt all 5
Q3	Section B — Debate Writing	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q4	Section B — Paragraph Writing	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q5	Section B — Grammar MCQs (12 Qs)	10	Best 10 of 12
Q6	Section C — Short Story Extract (2 MCQ + 3 VSA)	5	Attempt all 5
Q7	Section C — Poetry Stanza (2 MCQ + 3 VSA)	5	Attempt all 5
Q8	Section C — Essay Extract (2 MCQ + 3 VSA)	5	Attempt all 5
Q9	Section C — Essay-Type: Short Stories	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q10	Section C — Essay-Type: Poetry	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q11	Section C — Essay-Type: Essays	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q12	Section C — Short Answers: Short Stories (any 4/5)	2×4=8	Any 4 out of 5
Q13	Section C — Short Answers: Essays (any 4/5)	2×4=8	Any 4 out of 5
Q14	Section C — Short Answers: Poetry (any 2/3)	2×2=4	Any 2 out of 3
	GRAND TOTAL	**80**	

S — End of Marking Scheme — S