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FOR HARYANA CLASS 12 PREPARATION

HBSE Class 12 Sample Paper 2027 English Elective Marking Scheme

EXAM	YEAR	TYPE	SUBJECT
Haryana Class 12	2027	Answer Key	English

MARKING SCHEME
SAMPLE PAPER (2026–27)
CLASS: XII – ENGLISH (ELECTIVE)
Subject Code: 520 | Maximum Marks: 80 | Time: 3 Hours

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 objective / MCQ questions, award 1 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 questions (5 marks): Content = 3 marks, Expression = 2 marks.
5. For Writing tasks (5 marks each): Format = 1 mark, Content = 2 marks, Expression = 2 marks.
6. Accept any reasonable and relevant answer not listed here if it is based on the text.
7. Do not deduct marks for spelling or grammatical errors in reading comprehension / literature answers unless expression is completely impaired.
8. If a student has attempted more than the required number of questions/sub-questions, evaluate only the first attempt and score out the rest.
9. Marks awarded for each sub-part must be written on the right margin. Totals must be encircled in the left margin.

SECTION – A (Reading Comprehension) [M.M. : 12]

Q1. Unseen Passage (6 Marks)

Attempt any SIX out of the eight questions. Each correct answer carries 1 mark.

(a) What has technology transformed in the modern age ?

Ans. Technology has transformed the way human beings communicate, learn, and work. The internet, smartphones, and AI have redefined human capability.

(b) What concerns have arisen due to technological advancement ?

Ans. Concerns include invasion of privacy, deteriorating mental health, and increasing social isolation.

(c) What does research say about effects of excessive screen time on young people ?

Ans. Research indicates excessive screen time leads to reduced attention spans, disturbed sleep patterns, and increased anxiety and depression.

(d) What is meant by 'digital literacy' as described in the passage ?

Ans. Digital literacy is the ability to use technology critically and responsibly, which has become as essential as traditional literacy in the 21st century.

(e) What is the central message of the passage ? (MCQ)

Ans. (ii) Technology must be used with awareness and responsibility.

(f) What does the word 'unprecedented' mean in the passage ?

Ans. Never seen or experienced before; unparalleled / exceptional.

(g) Which word in the passage is a synonym for 'encouraging' ? (MCQ)

Ans. (ii) Fuelling

(h) The phrase 'culture of comparison' implies : (MCQ)

Ans. (ii) People constantly measuring themselves against others.

Total: 6 Marks (any 6 × 1)

Q2. Unseen Poem Comprehension (6 Marks)

Attempt any SIX out of the eight questions. Each correct answer carries 1 mark.

Poem: 'No Coward Soul is Mine' – Emily Brontë (extract)

(a) What does the poet mean by 'No coward soul is mine' ? (MCQ)

Ans. (ii) The poet is brave and fearless.

(b) What arms the poet against fear ? (MCQ)

Ans. (iii) Faith.

(c) The phrase 'ever-present Deity' suggests that God is : (MCQ)

Ans. (ii) Present everywhere and always.

(d) What does the phrase 'world's storm-troubled sphere' symbolize ?

Ans. It symbolizes the turmoil, difficulties, and challenges of worldly / earthly life.

(e) How does the poet express her spiritual strength in the extract ?

Ans. The poet expresses spiritual strength through her unwavering faith in God, declaring that God's presence within her removes all fear and gives her life.

(f) Explain the meaning of the line: 'I see Heaven's glories shine.'

Ans. The poet means she is able to perceive and experience divine glory and the spiritual light of God, which fills her with courage and purpose.

(g) What relationship between human life and God is presented in the poem ?

Ans. The poem presents an intimate, inseparable relationship — God dwells within the human soul and gives life meaning; the poet's life finds rest and power in God.

(h) Identify and explain any one poetic device used in the extract.

Ans. Personification — 'Faith shines equal, arming me from Fear'. Faith is given the human quality of being a warrior/protector that shields the poet. (Accept any valid device with example.)

Total: 6 Marks (any 6 × 1)

SECTION – B (Writing Skills and Grammar) [M.M. : 20]

Q3. Writing Tasks — Attempt any TWO of the three (10 Marks)

Each question carries 5 marks. Marking: Format = 1, Content = 2, Expression = 2.

(a) Application for the Post of Lecturer in English

Component	Marks
Format: Sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject line, salutation, closing (Yours faithfully / signature)	1
Content: Mentioning post applied for; qualifications (M.A. Gold Medallist, Kurukshetra University); relevant experience / skills;	2

request for consideration; enclosures	
Expression: Formal tone, coherent language, correct grammar, appropriate vocabulary	2

Note: Deduct ½ mark if format is partially followed. Full marks if all elements are present and language is appropriate.

(b) Paragraph: 'The Importance of Reading Books in the Digital Age'

Component	Marks
Format: Appropriate title, paragraph form (80–100 words)	1
Content: Introduces the issue; explains benefits of reading (vocabulary, critical thinking, imagination, empathy); contrast with digital media; concluding thought	2
Expression: Coherence, sentence variety, grammar, relevant ideas	2

(c) Report: Annual Sports Day — Navneet/Navneeta, Sports Captain

Component	Marks
Format: Heading / Title, Byline (By Navneet/Navneeta), Date and Venue	1

Content: Event name, date, venue; events held; chief guest; winners / highlights; participation; conclusion	2
Expression: Formal, impersonal tone; past tense; correct grammar; coherence	2

Total: 5 × 2 = 10 Marks

Q4. Grammar — Do any TEN out of twelve (10 Marks)

Each correct answer carries 1 mark. No partial marks. Accept grammatically correct alternatives.

(a) Indirect Speech — The teacher said to the students, "You must revise your lessons regularly."

Ans. The teacher told the students that they must revise their lessons regularly.
(Also accept: '...advised the students to revise their lessons regularly.')

(b) Voice — The manager has approved the new project proposal.

Ans. The new project proposal has been approved by the manager.

(c) Modal — You …… not enter the examination hall without your admit card.

Ans. should
(Explanation: 'should' indicates obligation/advice. 'must' is also acceptable.)

(d) Error Correction — Neither of the two boys have submitted their assignments.

Ans. Neither of the two boys has submitted their assignments.
(Rule: 'Neither' takes a singular verb.)

(e) Preposition — She is very fond …… classical music.

Ans. of (She is very fond of classical music.)

(f) Conjunction — Work hard …… you will not succeed.

Ans. or (Work hard or you will not succeed.)

(g) Correct Tense — By the time we reached the station, the train …… (leave) already.

Ans. had left (By the time we reached the station, the train had already left.)

(h) Error Correction — The committee have decided to postpone the meeting.

Ans. The committee has decided to postpone the meeting.

(Rule: 'Committee' is a collective noun treated as singular.)

(i) Article — He is …… university professor with thirty years of experience.

Ans. a (He is a university professor…)

(Rule: 'university' begins with a consonant sound /j/, so 'a' is used.)

(j) Relative Pronoun — I met a scientist yesterday. She has discovered a new vaccine.

Ans. I met a scientist yesterday who has discovered a new vaccine.

(k) Article — She wants to become …… engineer in the future.

Ans. an (She wants to become an engineer…)

(Rule: 'engineer' begins with a vowel sound /e/, so 'an' is used.)

(l) Voice — The students completed the assignment before the deadline.

Ans. The assignment was completed by the students before the deadline.

Total: 10 Marks (any 10 × 1)

SECTION – C (Literature — Short Stories, Poetry & Non-fiction)[M.M. : 28]

Q5. Poetry Extract — Choose ANY ONE (A or B) (5 Marks)

Each sub-question carries 1 mark. Accept any relevant, textually-supported answer.

OPTION A — Poem: Sonnet 144 ('Two Loves I Have') — William Shakespeare

(i) Name the poem and the poet.

Ans. Poem: 'Two Loves I Have' (Sonnet 144). Poet: William Shakespeare.

(ii) What are the two loves that the speaker mentions ?

Ans. The two loves are: (1) Comfort — represented by the 'better angel', a fair man; (2) Despair — represented by the 'worser spirit', a woman described as 'colour'd ill'.

(iii) How does the poet describe the 'better angel' and the 'worser spirit' ?

Ans. The better angel is described as 'a man right fair' (good, fair, righteous). The worser spirit is described as 'a woman colour'd ill' (dark / morally negative).

(iv) What does the 'female evil' attempt to do ?

Ans. The female evil attempts to tempt the better angel away from the speaker's side, trying to corrupt or win him over to 'hell'.

(v) Which word best describes the mood ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) Conflicted.

OR

OPTION B — Poem: 'I dwell in Possibility' — Emily Dickinson

(i) Name the poem and the poet.

Ans. Poem: 'I dwell in Possibility'. Poet: Emily Dickinson.

(ii) What does the poet mean by 'I dwell in Possibility' ?

Ans. The poet means she lives in the realm of poetry / imagination, which offers infinite possibilities far beyond the limits of prose.

(iii) How does the poet contrast Poetry with Prose ?

Ans. Poetry is described as a 'fairer house' with more windows and superior doors, suggesting it is more expansive, open, and imaginatively rich than Prose.

(iv) What does 'the Gambrels of the Sky' suggest ?

Ans. It suggests that the roof of this 'house' of poetry is the sky itself — limitless, eternal, vast — reflecting the boundless nature of poetic imagination.

(v) Which best describes the central image ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) A vast house representing the limitlessness of poetry.

Total: 5 Marks (1 × 5)

Q6. Short Story Extract — Choose ANY ONE (A or B) (5 Marks)

Each sub-question carries 1 mark. Accept any relevant, textually-supported answer.

OPTION A — Story: 'Eveline' — James Joyce

(i) Name the story and the author.

Ans. Story: 'Eveline'. Author: James Joyce.

(ii) What is Eveline weighing in her mind ?

Ans. Eveline is weighing whether it is wise to leave her home and go away with Frank. She considers the security of her home (shelter, food, familiar people) against the uncertainty of leaving.

(iii) What does she fear her co-workers will say ?

Ans. She fears they will call her a fool for running away with a fellow, and that her job at the Stores will be filled up by advertisement.

(iv) What do we learn about Miss Gavan ?

Ans. Miss Gavan is a hostile and critical co-worker who has always treated Eveline harshly — she always 'had an edge on her', particularly in front of others.

(v) How does Eveline respond to the thought of leaving ? (MCQ)

Ans. (b) She is torn between duty and desire for freedom.

OR

OPTION B — Story: 'One Centimetre' — Bi Shu-Min

(i) Name the story and the author.

Ans. Story: 'One Centimetre'. Author: Bi Shu-Min.

(ii) What had Tao Ying originally wanted to do for her son ?

Ans. She had wanted to give her son a small joy — most likely to take him on a bus ride / outing without paying the full fare, believing he was just below the height limit.

(iii) Why does Tao Ying feel unease — is it guilt or wounded dignity ?

Ans. It is wounded dignity, not deliberate guilt. She had not intended to cheat. She is distressed because she miscalculated and was caught — her self-respect as an honest person is hurt.

(iv) What is Tao Ying's deepest concern in this situation ?

Ans. Her deepest concern is that her son should not think his mother lied or cheated — she wants to preserve her image as an honest, principled person in her child's eyes.

(v) What does her decision to pay the fare reveal ? (MCQ)

Ans. (c) She is a woman of integrity and self-respect.

Total: 5 Marks (1 × 5)

Q7. Essay-Type Questions from Literature — Attempt any TWO of three (10 Marks)

Each answer carries 5 marks: Content = 3, Expression = 2. Word limit: 120–150 words.

(a) D. H. Lawrence — 'Why the Novel Matters'

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- Lawrence argues the novel is superior because it presents the whole, living man — body and soul together.
- Unlike philosophy, science, or poetry (which deal with parts of life), the novel captures the complexity of human experience in its entirety.
- The novel is 'the one bright book of life' — it shows characters changing, feeling, contradicting themselves.
- Through the novel, man can live multiple lives; it helps readers understand themselves and others.
- Lawrence believes morality in the novel arises from life itself, not imposed codes.

Expression (2 marks):

- Award 2 marks for well-organized, coherent, grammatically correct response in appropriate academic style.
- Award 1 mark if ideas are present but poorly expressed.

(b) W. B. Yeats — 'The Wild Swans at Coole'

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- Yeats paints an autumn scene at Coole Park — still water, bare October trees, 59 swans on the lake.
- The swans are symbols of eternal beauty, permanence, and passionate vitality — they haven't changed in 19 years.
- The speaker feels aged, changed, and lonely; the swans contrast with his sense of loss.
- The swans flying in 'great broken rings' represent freedom and immortality.
- Central contrast: the speaker's mortality vs. the swans' timelessness.

Expression (2 marks):

- 2 marks for well-expressed, logically developed analysis. 1 mark for adequate but poorly organized response.

(c) Eveline — conflict between duty and desire

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- Eveline is torn between her desire for a new life with Frank and her sense of duty to her family (promise to her dying mother, care of siblings and father).
- Fear of the unknown, guilt, and the weight of domestic responsibility paralyze her.
- At the quayside, she cannot move — she grips the iron railing, unable to board the ship.
- She is ultimately prevented from leaving by deep-rooted psychological paralysis — Joyce's theme of Irish paralysis.
- Her eyes give Frank 'no sign of love or farewell or recognition' — showing complete emotional shutdown.

Expression (2 marks):

- 2 marks for coherent, well-developed response. 1 mark for partially developed response.

Total: 5 × 2 = 10 Marks

Q8. Short-Answer Questions — Attempt any FOUR of five (8 Marks)

Each answer carries 2 marks: Content = 1, Expression = 1. Word limit: 30–40 words.

(a) Shadow in John Donne's 'A Lecture Upon the Shadow'

Ans. In the poem, the shadow symbolizes the decline of love. Morning shadows (before noon) represent the early growth of love; afternoon shadows represent the fading and deception that set in when love begins to wane.

(b) Ingmar Bergman — fundamental raw material of a film

Ans. According to Bergman, the fundamental raw material of a film is not the script or dialogue, but rhythm and the succession of images — the way light, movement, and silence come together to create cinematic experience.

(c) Milton's tribute to Shakespeare in 'On Shakespeare'

Ans. Milton argues that Shakespeare does not need a stone monument because his works are his living memorial. Shakespeare has built 'a live-long monument' in the hearts of his readers, who are left 'wonder-wounded' by his power.

(d) Significance of 'One Centimetre' in Bi Shu-Min's story

Ans. The one centimetre refers to the height difference that determines whether Tao Ying's son needs a bus ticket. It becomes a symbol of a mother's dignity, honesty, and the moral principles she wants her child to witness.

(e) Amartya Sen — India's argumentative tradition

Ans. According to Sen, India's argumentative tradition is unique because of its ancient history of public debate, heterodoxy, and tolerance of disagreement — found in texts like the Mahabharata, Buddhist dialogues, and Mughal court discussions.

Total: 2 × 4 = 8 Marks

SECTION – D (Drama) [M.M. : 20]

Q9. Long Answer — Attempt any ONE of two (Chandalika / Broken Images) (5 Marks)

Marks: Content = 3, Expression = 2. Word limit: 120–150 words.

(a) Act of offering water — transformation of Prakriti (Chandalika)

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- Prakriti is a Chandalika (untouchable girl) who carries deep shame about her low caste identity.
- When Ananda (Buddhist monk, disciple of Buddha) asks her for water, it is the first time a respected person has treated her as a human being.
- This simple act shatters her sense of worthlessness — she realizes she is not impure; the monk sees all humans as equal.
- The moment marks the beginning of her spiritual and social awakening — she begins to question the caste system.
- She develops a deep emotional and spiritual attachment to Ananda, which drives the rest of the play.

(b) Manjula's English novel — alienation from identity (Broken Images)

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- Manjula, a Kannada writer, writes her latest novel in English, achieving fame but creating an internal crisis.
- Her mirror-image (her repressed Kannada-speaking self) confronts her, accusing her of betraying her roots.
- Writing in English means abandoning her mother tongue — the language of her identity, memory, and authentic voice.

- The play explores bilingualism as a source of cultural conflict: English brings success but severs emotional and cultural ties.
- Manjula's alienation reflects the broader dilemma of postcolonial writers torn between indigenous identity and global accessibility.

Total: 5 Marks

Q10. Long Answer — Attempt any ONE of two (Chandalika / Broken Images) (5 Marks)

Marks: Content = 3, Expression = 2. Word limit: 120–150 words.

(a) Prakriti's journey from self-loathing to self-realisation (Chandalika)

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- At the start, Prakriti is consumed by shame — she sees herself as impure and unworthy due to her caste.
- Ananda's request for water plants the seed of dignity — she begins to question why she must accept a degraded identity.
- She becomes obsessed with Ananda and convinces her mother to use a magic spell to bring him to her.
- The spell works, but at a great cost — Ananda loses his spiritual energy and nearly his life.
- Prakriti ultimately releases the spell; she realizes true love cannot be forced. This is her self-realisation — she chooses compassion over possession.
- Ananda's role: he is the catalyst who sees her humanity and unknowingly initiates her transformation.

Expression = 2 marks

(b) The mirror as a theatrical device — divided identity (Broken Images)

Value Points (Content — 3 marks):

- Karnad uses a split-stage device: the 'real' Manjula speaks in English; her mirror image speaks in Kannada.
- The mirror image represents Manjula's suppressed, authentic self — the writer she was before choosing English.
- As the play progresses, the mirror image becomes more assertive and dominant, while Manjula loses confidence.
- This theatrical device externalizes the internal psychological conflict of a bilingual, postcolonial writer.
- The broken image of the title suggests a fractured identity — Manjula's self-image is shattered by the confrontation with her repressed truth.

- Karnad uses this to comment on language, identity, and the politics of literary choice in India.

Expression = 2 marks

Total: 5 Marks

Q11. Short Answers — Drama — Attempt any FOUR of six (8 Marks)

Each answer carries 2 marks: Content = 1, Expression = 1. Word limit: 30–40 words.

(a) What does Prakriti's mother fear when Prakriti pursues the monk ?

Ans. Prakriti's mother fears that the monk will not reciprocate Prakriti's feelings and that involving a Buddhist monk in matters of desire is dangerous and may bring harm to both of them.

(b) Who is Malini and her relationship with Manjula ?

Ans. Malini is Manjula's deceased sister who was a writer in Kannada. Ironically, Manjula has published the novel using stories Malini had written in Kannada — a fact that becomes central to the play's conflict.

(c) Significance of the term 'Chandalika' in the play

Ans. 'Chandalika' refers to a girl of the lowest, untouchable caste. In the play it represents the burden of caste-based discrimination. Tagore uses it to challenge the caste system and assert the spiritual equality of all human beings.

(d) Why does Manjula's mirror-image disagree with her ?

Ans. The mirror-image represents Manjula's suppressed Kannada self and inner conscience. It disagrees because Manjula has taken credit for stories written by her dead sister Malini and denied her own Kannada literary roots.

(e) What spell does Prakriti's mother cast and its consequences ?

Ans. Prakriti's mother casts a powerful magic spell to compel Ananda to return to Prakriti. The spell works but drains Ananda's spiritual life-force, nearly killing him. This forces Prakriti to withdraw the spell and release him.

(f) How does Pramod Murty's interview affect Manjula's public image ?

Ans. Pramod Murty's probing interview questions begin to expose contradictions in Manjula's story about her novel. His questions unsettle her public image of success and bring her hidden guilt and deception closer to exposure.

Total: 2 × 4 = 8 Marks

Q12. Poetic Devices — Attempt any TWO of three (2 Marks)

Each sub-question carries 1 mark: correct identification + brief explanation / example.

(a) Identify the figure of speech: 'The wind whispered secrets through the rustling leaves.'

Ans. Personification — The wind is given the human quality of 'whispering'. A non-living thing (wind) is described as performing a human action (whispering secrets).

(b) Define 'alliteration' with one suitable example.

Ans. Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of closely placed words.

Example: 'She sells sea shells by the seashore.' (repetition of 's' sound)

(c) Define 'Simile' with one suitable example.

Ans. A simile is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Example: 'He is as brave as a lion.' (comparing a person's bravery to that of a lion)

Total: 1 × 2 = 2 Marks

MARKS SUMMARY

Q. No.	Section / Topic	Marks	Choice
Q1	Unseen Passage (Section A)	6	Any 6 out of 8
Q2	Unseen Poem (Section A)	6	Any 6 out of 8
Q3	Writing Skills (Section B)	5+5=10	Any 2 out of 3
Q4	Grammar (Section B)	10	Any 10 out of 12
Q5	Poetry Extract (Section C)	5	Any 1 out of 2 (A or B)
Q6	Story Extract (Section C)	5	Any 1 out of 2 (A or B)
Q7	Essay-Type Literature (Section C)	5+5=10	Any 2 out of 3
Q8	Short Answers — Literature (Section C)	2×4=8	Any 4 out of 5
Q9	Drama — Long Answer (Section D)	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q10	Drama — Long Answer (Section D)	5	Any 1 out of 2
Q11	Drama — Short Answers (Section D)	2×4=8	Any 4 out of 6
Q12	Poetic Devices (Section D)	1×2=2	Any 2 out of 3
	GRAND TOTAL	**80**	

S — End of Marking Scheme — S