GG–E(SL)

Countersigned on verification
Officer-in-Charge
(with Office Seal)

Signature of the Invigilator

Centre ....

Q	Marks

2026

ENGLISH
(Second Language)

Time : 3 Hours 15 Minutes

*(First 15 Minutes for reading the question paper only,
3 Hours for writing)*

Full Marks : 90

Roll .... No. ....

Name ....

Registration No. ....

*Answer ALL the questions in the space provided. There is enough
space for the answers. However, extra sheets will be supplied by
the invigilator, if required.*

*Special credit will be given for answers which are brief and
to the point. Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes,
untidiness and bad handwriting.*

Section – A – *Reading Comprehension (Seen) – 20 marks*
Reading Comprehension (Unseen) – 20 marks

Section – B – *Grammar and Vocabulary – 20 marks*

Section – C – *Writing – 30 marks*

Examiner's Signature........................... Scrutineer's Signature...................

Post-Examiner's Signature.................. Head Examiner's Signature.................. | TOTAL | |

SECTION – A

READING COMPREHENSION (SEEN)

1. **Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :**

Of course, there was nobody for us to play with on the Big Half Moon. We just had to make the most of each other, and we did.

We live on the Big Half Moon island. 'We' are Father and Claude and I and Aunt Esther and Mimi and Dick. It used to be only Father and Claude and I. It is all on account of the kite that there are more of us. This is what I want to tell you about.

Father is the keeper of the Big Half Moon Lighthouse. I am eleven years old. Claude is twelve. In winter, when the harbour is frozen over, we all move over to the mainland. As soon as spring comes, back we sail to our own dear island.

The funny part used to be that people always pitied us when the time came for us to return. They said we must be so lonesome over there, with no other children near us. Of course Claude and I would have liked to have someone to play with us. It is hard to run pirate caves and things like that with only two. But we used to quarrel a good deal with the mainland children in winter. So it was perhaps just as well that there were none of them on the Big Half Moon. Claude and I never quarrelled.

To be sure, Father didn't seem to have any relations except us. This used to puzzle Claude and me. Everybody on the mainland had relations. Why hadn't we ? Was it because we lived on an island ? We thought it would be so jolly to have an uncle and aunt and some cousins. Once we asked Father about it, but he looked so sorrowful that we wished we hadn't. He said it was all his fault. Claude and I didn't understand what he meant.

A. **Write the correct alternative in the given space to complete the following sentences :** 1×5=5

   (a) Big Half Moon is the name of a/an ....
   - (i) hotel
   - (ii) city
   - (iii) island
   - (iv) tower

   Ans : _____

   (b) The age of Claude is ....
   - (i) eleven years
   - (ii) twelve years
   - (iii) fifteen years
   - (iv) ten years

   Ans : _____

(c) Esther is the ....

    (i)   cousin of Claude and the narrator

    (ii) mother of the narrator and Claude

    (iii) neighbour of the narrator's father

    (iv) sister of the narrator's father

    Ans : _____

(d) Claude and the narrator used to quarrel ....

    (i)   with the mainland children

    (ii) among themselves only

    (iii) with their cousins

    (iv) with other children of the island

    Ans : _____

(e) Father looked sad when ....

    (i) the children felt lonely   (ii) aunt Esther was found

    (iii) the family left the island   (iv) he was asked about relatives

    Ans : _____

B. Complete the following sentences with information from the text :   1×3=3

    (i)   The father of the two children worked as _____

    _____

    _____

    (ii) The family used to move over to the mainland because _____

    _____

    (iii) People of the mainland pitied the narrator's family when _____

    _____

GG–E(SL)   [Turn over

C. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False'. Write 'T' for 'True' and 'F' for 'False' in the boxes on the right-hand side. Also provide sentences/phrases from the passage in support of your answers : 2×2=4

(i) The family found their relative because of the kite. □

Supporting statement : _____

_____

(ii) No family living on the mainland had relatives. □

Supporting statement : _____

_____

2. **Read the poem and answer the questions that follow :**

To grass, or leaf, or fruit or wall
The snail sticks close, nor fears to fall
As if he grew there, house and all
            Together.
Within that house secure he hides
When danger imminent betides
Of storm, or other harm besides
            Of weather.
Give but his horns the slightest touch,
His self-collecting pow'r is such,
He shrinks into his house with much
            Displeasure.
Where'er he dwells, he dwells alone,
Except himself has chattels none
Well satisfied to be his own
            Whole treasure.
Thus, hermit-like, his life he leads,
Nor partner of his banquet needs,
And if he meets one, only feeds
            The faster.

A. Tick the correct alternative to complete the following sentences : 1×4=4
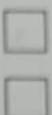
(a) The snail sticks to the wall as if ....

(i) he grew there □   (ii) it is afraid to fall □

(iii) he is fond of it □   (iv) it is his house □

(b) With the slightest touch the snail shrinks with ....

 (i) disappointment ☐ (ii) delight ☐

 (iii) displeasure ☐ (iv) defiance ☐

(c) The phrase "danger imminent" in the second stanza refers to dangers ....

 (i) that cannot be faced ☐ (ii) likely to happen soon ☐

 (iii) being faced at present ☐ (iv) that happened in the past ☐

(d) Wherever the snail lives, it lives ....

 (i) with family ☐ (ii) with chattels ☐

 (iii) with friends ☐ (iv) with none ☐

B. Answer the following questions :   2×2=4

 (i) What does the snail do when it meets another snail ?

  Ans : _____

  _____

  _____

 (ii) With whose life is the life of the snail compared and what similarity can be found in their lives ?

  Ans : _____

  _____

  _____

  _____

              [Turn over

READING COMPREHENSION (UNSEEN)

3. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Every year, the third Sunday in July will be celebrated as the "Kingfisher Day" in Bengal. Starting today, the third Sunday of every July will also see Bengal birders undertaking a survey to know status and distribution of Kingfishers in Bengal. The decision was taken during the Bengal Birders' Meet on Sunday. While white-throated Kingfisher is the state bird of Bengal, the state is also home to 11 more species of Kingfisher.

"The Birdwatchers' Society (BWS) is proud to propose that beginning this year, the week starting from the third Sunday will be observed as 'Kingfisher Census Week' across Bengal. This will focus on documenting the distribution and diversity of Kingfishers," said Suhas Banerjee of BWS.

"Kingfishers are critical indicators of fresh water eco-system health. Species that rely on muddy ponds and river-banks are uniquely adapted, yet they face mounting threats from habitat loss and degradation. Targeted conservation efforts are essential to secure their future," said Ardhendu Das, ecologist and BWS member.

"Bengal holds the unique distinction of having recorded all 12 species of Kingfishers found in India — an ecological honour that makes this initiative all the more significant. As awareness grows, we envision Kingfisher Day evolving into a national movement," added Banerjee.

The Birdwatchers' Society in association with eBird and Bird Count India kicked off two-day Bengal Birders' Meet 2025 on Saturday, the 19th of July. This year, the meet is being held with over 350 participants. Among the speakers are eminent conservationist and ornithologist Asad Rahmani, wildlife ecologist Aparajita Dutta, Sunderbans Tiger Reserve deputy field director Justin-Jones, DFO Malda Jiju Jasper, Aswin Viswanathan of Nature Conservation Foundation, Major B. S. Parihar and IFS Milan Mandal.

[Adapted from an article published in 'The Times of India' dated 20th July 2025]

A. **Tick the right answer :**   1×6=6

(a) Kingfisher Day is going to be celebrated in Bengal on the

    (i)   third Sunday of August ☐   (ii) third Sunday of July ☐

    (iii) third Saturday of July ☐   (iv) first Sunday of July ☐

(b) Bengal birders will undertake a survey to know the

    (i)   habitat loss and degradation of Kingfishers across Bengal ☐

    (ii) effect of habitat loss of the Kingfishers in India ☐

    (iii) status and distribution of Kingfishers all over Bengal ☐

    (iv) distribution of Kingfishers in different parts of India ☐

(c) The number of associations involved in organizing Bengal Birders' Meet 2025 is

    (i)   three ☐   (ii) ten ☐

    (iii) two ☐   (iv) four ☐

(d) Bengal Birders' Meet started on a

    (i)   Sunday ☐   (ii) Friday ☐

    (iii) Monday ☐   (iv) Saturday ☐

(e) Ardhendu Das is a BWS member and an

    (i)   ornithologist ☐   (ii) anthropologist ☐

    (iii) ecologist ☐   (iv) economist ☐

(f) The number of participants in Bengal Birders' Meet 2025 was

    (i)   more than three hundred and fifty ☐

    (ii) less than three hundred and fifty ☐

    (iii) more than four hundred and fifty ☐

    (iv) less than two hundred and fifty ☐

[Turn over

B. Each of the following statements is either 'True' or 'False'. Write 'T' for 'True' and 'F' for 'False' in the boxes on the right-hand side. Also write suitable line(s) or phrase(s) from the passage in support of your answer :

(1+1)×3=6

(i) The Birdwatchers' Society of Bengal hopes that observing 'Kingfisher Day' will become a national movement in future. ☐

Supporting statement : _____

_____

(ii) Kingfishers are critical indicators of only urban ecosystem health. ☐

Supporting statement : _____

_____

(iii) Jiju Jasper is an eminent conservationist and ornithologist. ☐

Supporting statement : _____

_____

C. Answer the following questions : 2×4=8

(i) Which Kingfisher is the state bird of Bengal ? How many other species of Kingfishers can be found in Bengal ?

_____

_____

_____

_____

(ii) What will be the focus of 'Kingfisher Census Week' ?

_____

_____

_____

_____

(iii) Which ecological honour does Bengal have ? What is essential to secure the future of Kingfishers ?

_____

_____

_____

(iv) Write the names of two speakers who attended the Bengal Birders' Meet 2025 ?

_____

_____

_____

SECTION – B
GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

4. **Choose the correct alternatives to fill in the blanks :**   1×3=3

One day the Giant _____ (comes/came/was coming) back.

He _____ (had been/has been/was) to visit his

friend the Cornish Ogre and _____

(was staying/had stayed/had been staying) with him for seven years.

5. **Do as directed :**

A. **Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles and prepositions :**   1×3=3

On 4th August 2023 _____ Indian women's archery

team achieved a historic feat _____

securing the gold medal _____ the World Archery

Championship in Berlin.

B. (i) My father lives in a big house. The house is near the river. (Join into a single sentence) 1×3=3

Ans : _____

_____

(ii) "You are half an hour late," Samuel said. (Change into indirect speech)

Ans : _____

_____

(iii) At every station sorrowful crowds filled the platform. (Change the voice)

Ans : _____

_____

C. Choose the correct phrasal verbs from the list given below to replace the words underlined. Write the correct phrasal verbs in the boxes on the right-hand side changing the form where necessary. There is one extra phrasal verb in the list : 1×3=3

(i) Nandini has <u>published</u> her first novel.

(ii) I will <u>wear</u> a new dress tomorrow.

(iii) We should <u>abandon</u> bad habits.

[put on, give up, give in, bring out]

6. Given below are the meanings of four words which you will find in the passage in Question No. 3. Find out the words and write them in the appropriate boxes on the right-hand side : 2×4=8

   (i)   The natural home of a plant or an animal

   (ii) Variety

   (iii) Preservation

   (iv) Famous and respected for outstanding quality

SECTION – C
WRITING

7. Write a story (in about 100 words) using the following hints. Give a title to your story. 8+2

A dog crossing a bridge over a stream — a piece of flesh in mouth — sees the image in water — takes it for another dog — becomes greedy — jumps down.

[Turn over

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8. A renowned magician will come to your school next month. As the secretary of the student-council write a notice (in about 100 words) for the students announcing the date, time and place where students can attend the magic show. Mention that tickets are available free of cost from class teachers.   10

9. Write a letter (in about 100 words) to your cousin advising him/her to plant saplings or new plants during rainy season. Your letter should include reasons why you are advising him/her to plant trees every year and why rainy season is chosen for tree plantation.

10

[Turn over