

Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
(For Internal and Restricted use only)
Secondary School Examination, 2026 (2nd Board Examination)
SUBJECT NAME : English Communicative (101)
(Q.P. CODE 1)

General Instructions: -

1	You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2	“Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in Newspaper/Website, etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC.”
3	Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one’s own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. However, while evaluating, answers which are based on latest information or knowledge and/or are innovative, they may be assessed for their correctness otherwise and due marks be awarded to them. In Class-X, while evaluating two competency-based questions, please try to understand given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is enumerated by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.
4	The Marking scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, the due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5	The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zero after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6	Evaluators will mark (✓) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer CROSS ‘X’ be marked. Evaluators will not put right (✓) while evaluating which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. This is most common mistake which evaluators are committing.
7	If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totalled up and written in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may be followed strictly.
8	If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may also be followed strictly.
9	If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note “Extra Question” .
10	No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.

11	A full scale of marks _____ (example 0 to 80/70/60/50/40/30 marks as given in Question Paper) has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
12	Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e., 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines). This is in view of the reduced syllabus and number of questions in question paper.
13	Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past :- • Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book. • Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it. • Wrong totalling of marks awarded on an answer. • Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page. • Wrong question wise totalling on the title page. • Wrong totalling of marks of the two columns on the title page. • Wrong grand total. • Marks in words and figures not tallying/not same. • Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list. • Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark is correctly and clearly indicated. It should merely be a line. Same is with the X for incorrect answer.) • Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
14	While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks.
15	Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totalling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions be followed meticulously and judiciously.
16	The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the “Guidelines for Spot Evaluation” before starting the actual evaluation.
17	Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totalled and written in figures and words.
18	The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners/Additional Head Examiners/Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per value points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.
19	If a candidate attempts both alternatives/options in a question where only one option/alternative is required to be attempted, the Evaluator shall award marks in both the options. The system will take the higher of two scores and disregard the other response.
20	In a question having two options/alternatives, if a candidate has attempted only one, then the evaluator shall mark “NA” (Not attempted) against the option that has not been attempted by the candidate.

MARKING SCHEME
English Communicative (Subject Code - 101)
(PAPER CODE -1)

Q. No.	EXPECTED OUTCOMES/VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION-A (READING SKILLS)	22
1.	Answer the following questions on the basis of given passage .	12
(i)	(B) It includes several rivers and spans multiple countries.	1
(ii)	A complex and continuous network	1
(iii)	- The land near the Nile provided fertile soil /rich soil due to nutrient rich silt from annual flooding, making it ideal for farming. - This allowed ancient Egypt to grow crops and sustain a civilization in an otherwise desert region.	1+1
(iv)	Striking difference between fertile land and desert can be seen clearly from space.	1
(v)	The phrase “support a thriving population” suggests the idea of feeding a growing and prosperous society.	1
(vi)	It was primarily used for making paper.	1
(vii)	Within a few miles of the Nile.	1
(viii)	Water from Nile – A vital source as - it irrigates farms and supports cities. - Water is used for drinking purpose, fishing and generates hydroelectric power. - The river also serves as a route for transportation. (any two)	2
(ix)	- The basin is home to a variety of animals, including the hippopotamus, the monitor lizard and the fearsome Nile crocodile - The Nile River Delta is also a vital winter stopover for millions of birds migrating along the East African flyway.	2
2.	Answer the following questions on the basis of given passage.	10
(i)	Teenagers use screens for various purposes such as school related activities/ browsing social media/ playing video games / watching entertainment content. (any two)	½ +½

	The digital world has become a major part of both- their academic and personal lives/ inseparable part of modern life	1
(ii)	13 – 15	1
(iii)	It can cause health issues (like eye strain, poor posture disturbed sleep, reduced physical activity and increased anxiety).	1
(iv)	The survey revealed that 62% of teenagers felt tired or irritable after spending long hours on their devices.	1
(v)	(A) playing video games.	1
(vi)	Health experts say the key is balance and time management.	1
(vii)	Outdoor activities and social interaction.	1
(viii)	- As digital devices have become essential in modern life, building healthy tech habits in teens is crucial. - Tech habits help them manage screen time wisely prevent harmful effects and maintain a balanced lifestyle with space for offline interests and interactions.	1+1
	SECTION – B (WRITING SKILLS)	22
3.	Application writing Format – 1 mark Content – 1 mark Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Application to the Principal Suggestive value points: - Inter class football match - Non availability of playgrounds outside the school - Need for school playground for practices session - Seeking permission for practice session (any other relevant points)	3
4.	Factual Description Content – 2 marks Organisation – 1 mark (appropriate/consistent) Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, punctuation and Grammar)	4

	A Memorable Trip or Excursion Suggestive value points: • Location • Activities undertaken • An unforgettable event	
5.	Letter to the Editor (for both A & B) Format – 1 mark (no marks for format will be given if there is no content) Content – 3 marks. Organisation – 2 marks (formal tone and three paragraphs: Intro, main body and conclusion / resolution) Accuracy -1 mark (spelling, punctuation and Grammar) (A) RISING CASES OF CYBER CRIME Suggestive value points: • Rising cases of cyber crime • Students and elderly people, more vulnerable • Loss of hard-earned money and personal information • Organizing cyber safety awareness camps in the colony • Need to use strong passwords • Avoid sharing personal information • Need for prompt actions by cyber security cells • To encourage safe practices for online/cyber security for students and workplaces (any other relevant points) OR (B) PLASTIC WASTE – ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES Suggestive value points: • Releasing toxic chemicals • Creating non-biodegradable pollution • Harmful impact on eco-system • Reduce use of plastic and single –use plastic items • Switch to sustainable materials • Spread awareness through campaigns • Promote use of cloth, jute and paper bags	7

	(any other relevant points)	
6.	Article Writing (for both A & B) Format -1 mark (Title & by – line, no marks for format will be given if there is no content) Content – 4 marks Organisation – 2 marks (coherence 3 paragraphs intro, main body, conclusion / resolution) Accuracy – 1 mark (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Suggestive value points: (A) Environmental conservation necessary: • to protect the biodiversity • to ensure sustainable future • to combat climate changes • Eco – friendly practices like recycling, reusing, reducing waste conserves natural resources • Eco –friendly practices improve human health and quality of life • Nurturing an environmentally responsible generation ensures long term sustainability • Young people can inspire innovation and green solutions (any other relevant points) OR (B) Suggestive value points: SATELLITES –THE SILENT HELPERS • Support us in: communication, weather forecasting, disaster management, navigation & scientific research, environmental monitoring • Activities of students: model making, quiz on sports, visit planetariums • Watching documentaries and educational videos on space technology • Reading books and articles about satellites and space missions (any other relevant points)	8
	SECTION – C	10

	(GRAMMAR)				
7.	Fill in the blank with the appropriate option. (i) is transforming (ii) are adopting (iii) will create				1x3=3 1 1 1
8.	Identify the missing word in each line.				1x4=4 1 1 1 1
	S.No.	Word Before	Omission	Word After	
	1	Eg : helps	in	maintaining	
	2	recommend	at	least	
	3	minutes	of	physical	
	4	plays	a	crucial	
	5	way	to	keep	
9.	Do as Directed				1+2=3
(I)	Certainly, I recommend these lozenges for the throat and a mild decongestant for the cold. OR Certainly, I recommend a mild decongestant for the cold and these lozenges for the throat.				1
(II)	(i) Whether/if he/she would be able to play in the match the next day/the following day. OR Whether/ if he/she would be able to play in the following day's /next day's match.				1
	(ii) he'd be ready by then.				1
	SECTION – D (LITERATURE TEXTBOOK)				26
10. (A)	Read the given extracts and answer the questions briefly for any two extracts of the given three.				2x4=8
(i)	The old man started/jumped suddenly at the sound but composed himself again to wait.				1
(ii)	He had acquired great speed through long practice.				1

(iii)	He was anxious but hopeful showing deep faith and love.	1
(iv)	The clerk was the person in the post office responsible for reading out the names one after the other.	1
(B) (i)	Marble and gilded monuments of princes will not outlive this rhyme.	1
(ii)	It suggests that monuments are either covered with dirt and get decayed with time.	1
(iii)	The poet describes that time will spoil monuments but it cannot destroy the memory preserved in poetry.	1
(iv)	Shakespeare conveys that poetry has the power to immortalize beauty and memory beyond the ravages of time and decay of monuments.	1
(C) (i)	He wants to take Caesar to the senate house.	1
(ii)	Caesar says he will not go to the senate that day and tells Decius to inform the senators.	1
(iii)	She suggests Caesar to send a message to the senators that he was not well.	1
(iv)	It shows Caesar's pride determination and unwillingness to appear weak before others.	1
11.	Answer Any five of the following Six questions in about 30 – 40 words each content – 1 mark, expression – 1 mark.	5x2=10
(i)	The narrator was impressed by- • Their sense of responsibility • Their willingness to work • Maturity beyond their age • Their dignity and self – respect • Determination to earn money honestly • Their cheerfulness (any two) Any other relevant points	2
(ii)	The central theme of the play 'The Dear Departed - • Greed and selfishness within families • The play sensitizes about hypocrisy of relatives after a person's death • Materialism overpowering human emotions • Decline of family values and respect for elders (any two) Any other relevant points	2
(iii)	• forced her to sing endlessly, exploited her popularity for money • over worked her until she lost her voice and confidence.	2

	Made her sing/practice in hard weather that eventually led to her demise (any two) Any other relevant points	
(iv)	- It reveals her vanity and competitiveness - Shows her status consciousness and attention seeking desire - Not motivated by courage or adventure but by jealousy of Loona Bimberton's fame. - Her actions reflect superficiality and a desire for social recognition rather than genuine bravery. (any two) Any other relevant points	2
(v)	- The Albatross symbolizes nature, innocence and divine blessing. - Killing it represents humanity's reckless harm to nature. - Albatross's death brings suffering and guilt to the mariner making it a powerful symbol of guilt and punishment. - Shows consequences of irresponsible actions (any two) Any other relevant points	2
(vi)	- feels insulted and unimportant - expected a meaningful role. - The single word "oh"! seems trivial - Felt his talent was wasted - later he realizes that even small parts demand skill and can be meaningful. (any two) Any other relevant points	2
12.	Answer Any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. Content – 4 Organisation – 3 (coherence & effective style) Accuracy – 1 (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar)	1x8=8
A	A Shady Plot: Humour: - Helen's witty and sarcastic behaviour - Light-hearted comedy –situation between writer and ghost Suspense: - Develops from the mystery of ghost appearance and the fear of being exposed - Uncertainty about Ouija board messages and Lavinia's reactions – increase tension in the story. Virtually True: Humour:	

	• Sebastian’s cleverness and Michael’s surprise at the virtual reality situation • Humour in the strange and unbelievable events inside the computer games Suspense: • Suspense created through the mystery of Sebastian Shultz’s identity and the dangerous virtual games • The repeated attempts to rescue Sebastian from different games keep readers anxious and curious. Synthesis • ‘A Shady Plot’ mixes humour /suspense in a gentle, comic manner while ‘Virtually True’ combines suspense with Science fiction and adventure elements. (Any other relevant points)	
	OR	
B.	Ozymandias: • arrogance through king’s pride in his power and achievements • king wants his greatness to last forever • it shows that power and time are temporary as time destroys everything • the ruined statue in the desert symbolises the downfall of arrogance Snake: • Human arrogance through man’s belief that he is superior to nature • Initially feels pressured by human education and social ideas to dominate or kill the snake • Lawrence shows that arrogance makes humans act against natural harmony and innocence Synthesis: Both poems suggest that humility and respect are more valuable than pride (Any other relevant points)	
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