

HSC Examination 2026
Subject: English First Paper
Subject Code: 107
(According to the Syllabus of 2026)

Marking Scheme (Rubric)

Question Number-1(A) (5 Marks)

Correct Answers

- a) (iii) a medieval epic
- b) (iii) mythical
- c) (i) inaccessible
- d) (ii) to save Lakhindar
- e) (iv) on a raft

Question Number-1(B) (10 Marks)

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award **2 marks** for a complete and accurate response.
- Award **1 mark** if the student demonstrates partial understanding or provides an incomplete but relevant answer.
- Award **0 mark** if the response is incorrect, irrelevant, or missing.
- Answers may be accepted **in the student's own words** or by quoting the text, provided the meaning is correct.

Question Number- 2 (10 Marks)

Sample Answer

1. making life stressful
2. leading to financial ruin or debt / financial ruin or debt
3. creating unhappiness within families / creates unhappiness within families
4. keeping people dissatisfied with their belongings / dissatisfaction with their belongings
5. making people rush for brands, fashion items, designer clothes / rush for brands, fashion items, designer clothes
6. becoming an addiction / becomes an addiction

Guidelines for Examiners

- Evaluate **each point independently**.
- Award **2 marks** if the response correctly completes the step using information from the text.
- Award **1 mark** if the response conveys the essential idea but is incomplete or contains a minor error.
- Award **0 mark** if the response is incorrect, irrelevant, copied without completing the required step, or blank.
- Accept answers **in the student's own words or taken directly from the text in the form of phrases not sentences**, provided the meaning is accurate.
- **Either vertical or horizontal boxes are acceptable. Relevant answers without boxes should be awarded marks.**

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Question Number- 3 (10 Marks)**Marking Rubric**

Criterion	Marks	Description
Content Accuracy	4	Includes all the main ideas of the original text accurately without adding personal opinions or irrelevant information.
Organization and Coherence	2	Ideas are logically organized with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Smooth flow and appropriate use of linking words.
Language and Style	2	Uses clear, concise, and grammatically correct language. Maintains an objective tone and appropriate vocabulary.
Paraphrasing Skills	1	Expresses the author's ideas mainly in the student's own words, avoiding unnecessary copying from the original text.
Length and Mechanics	1	Follows the required length (or close to it) and demonstrates correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Grade Descriptor

Marks	Description
9-10	Accurate, well-organized, concise, and effectively paraphrased with very few or no language errors.
7-8	Covers most key ideas with good organization and language; only minor errors.
5-6	Includes some main ideas but omits important points or contains noticeable language and organization problems.
3-4	Limited understanding of the text; major omissions, weak organization, and frequent language errors.
0-2	Unable to summarize the text; largely inaccurate, copied, irrelevant, or incomplete.

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award marks based on **quality rather than quantity**.
- Accept summaries written **in the student's own words**.
- **Carefully award marks for:**
 - Inclusion of personal opinions or examples not found in the text.
 - Copying long sentences directly from the original passage.
 - Omission of major ideas.
 - Exceeding or falling far short of the expected length.
 - Frequent grammatical or mechanical errors that affect clarity.

Question Number- 4 (5 Marks)**Correct Answers**

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. regarded | f. butterfly |
| b. cultures | g. wings |
| c. associated | h. connected |
| d. due to | i. beauty |
| e. cocoon | j. symbols |

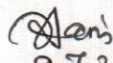
Guidelines for Examiners

- Award **0.5 mark** for each **completely correct** answer.
- Consider the **meaning, grammatical accuracy, and contextual appropriateness** of the answer.
- Ensure that the chosen word correctly matches the **parts of speech, tense, number, and agreement** required by the sentence.

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Question Number- 5 (10 Marks)**Sample Answers**

- (a) elements / components / factors / parts / ingredients
- (b) essential / necessary / vital / important / indispensable
- (c) polluted / contaminated / dirtied / damaged / degraded
- (d) smoke / gases / vehicles / industries / factories / fumes
- (e) kinds / types / forms / varieties / sorts
- (f) healthy / sound / peaceful / safe / happy
- (g) prevent / stop / control / check / resist
- (h) impossible / difficult / hard / tough / unrealistic
- (i) reduce / lessen / minimize / control / check / decrease / curb
- (j) awareness / consciousness / concern

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award **1 mark** for each **completely correct** answer.
- Consider the **meaning, grammatical accuracy, and contextual appropriateness** of the answer.
- Accept **any grammatically correct and contextually appropriate answer** if the gaps allow more than one possible response.
- Ensure that the chosen word correctly matches the **part of speech, tense, number, and agreement** required by the sentence.

Question Number – 6 (10 Marks)**Answers Key**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
e	b	i	d	J	a	h	c	g	f

or

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
e	b	i	d	J	h	c	g	a	f

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award **1 mark** for each sentence placed in its correct position.
- Evaluate the **logical sequence of events**, not merely the numbering of sentences.
- If a misplaced sentence causes subsequent sentences to appear out of order, award marks **only for those sentences that are in their correct relative positions** according to the answer key.
- Accept alternative sequences **only if they preserve the original logical order and meaning of the story** (where applicable).

Question Number- 7 (Paragraph Writing) (10 Marks)**Marking Rubric**

Criterion	Marks	Description
Content and Relevance	4	Covers all or most of the five guiding questions with relevant, accurate, and meaningful information.
Organization and Coherence	3	Ideas are logically arranged with a clear topic sentence, supporting details, and concluding sentence. Smooth transitions (connectors / linkers) are used.
Language Use	2	Uses appropriate vocabulary, correct grammar, sentence structure, and suitable tense.
Mechanics	1	Punctuation, capitalization, and paragraph formatting.

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Grade Descriptor

Marks	Description
9-10	Fully addresses all guiding questions with well-developed ideas, clear organization, accurate language, and almost no mechanical errors.
7-8	Addresses most guiding questions with good organization and language; only minor errors.
5-6	Covers some guiding questions but lacks sufficient development or coherence; noticeable language errors.
3-4	Limited response with weak organization, inadequate content, and frequent grammatical errors.
0-2	Unable to address the topic or guiding questions; ideas are irrelevant, incomplete, or copied.

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award **full marks (10)** only if the paragraph:
 - Addresses **all five guiding questions**.
 - Is well-organized and coherent.
 - Uses appropriate vocabulary and grammatically correct sentences.
 - Has a clear **topic sentence**, supporting details, and **concluding sentence**.
 - Completes the task **within the prescribed word limit**.
- Award **partial marks** according to the quality of content, organization, and language.
- Do not deduct marks for **minor spelling or punctuation errors** unless they affect meaning.
- Do not deduct marks if the writing exceeds or slightly falls short of the **prescribed word limit**.

Question Number- 8 (Story Writing) (7 Marks)Marking Rubric

Criterion	Marks	Description
Content and Relevance	3	The story is relevant to the given outline, and has a clear beginning, development, and ending.
Organization and Coherence	2	Events are logically sequenced. The story flows smoothly with appropriate use of connectors and paragraphing.
Language Use and Mechanics	2	Appropriate vocabulary, correct grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and tense are used. Language is clear and effective.

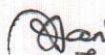
Grade Descriptor

Marks	Description
6.5-7	Well-developed, creative, and coherent story with accurate language and almost no mechanical errors.
5-6	Interesting story with logical organization and generally accurate language; only minor errors.
3.5-4.5	Story is relevant but lacks detail or coherence; contains some grammatical and mechanical errors.
2-3	Weak organization, limited development, frequent language errors, and unclear ending.
0-1	Incomplete, irrelevant, copied, or largely incomprehensible story.

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Guidelines for Examiners

- Assess the story on **content, organization, language, and mechanics**, not merely on its length.
- Give credit for **originality and creativity** if the story remains relevant to the given outline.
- Accept different plots and endings as long as they are logical and coherent.
- Minor spelling or punctuation mistakes should not receive heavy penalties unless they interfere with meaning.
- Ensure that the story has a **clear beginning, middle, and end**, with a meaningful conclusion.

Question Number- 9 (E-mail) (5 Marks)**Marking Rubric**

Criterion	Marks	Description
Content and Relevance	2	The email fully addresses the given topic or purpose. Ideas are relevant, clear, and sufficiently developed.
Language Use and Mechanics	2	Uses appropriate vocabulary, correct grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and an informal yet polite tone suitable for a friend.
Organization and Format	1	Follows the correct informal email format (greeting, body, closing, and sender's name). Ideas are logically organized.

Grade Descriptor

Marks	Description
5	Fully addresses the topic, follows the correct format, uses clear and fluent language, and contains very few or no errors.
4	Covers the topic well with correct format and generally accurate language; only minor errors.
3	Adequately addresses the topic but lacks detail or organization; noticeable language errors.
2	Partially relevant, weak organization, incorrect format, and frequent language errors.
0-1	Irrelevant, incomplete, incorrect format, or largely unintelligible.

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award marks based on **content, organization, language, and mechanics**.
- Check whether the student uses the **correct informal email format**:
 - Receiver's email ID
 - Subject
 - Greeting (e.g., *Dear Rafi,*)
 - Opening
 - Main body
 - Closing (e.g., *Best wishes,* or *Yours lovingly,*)
 - Sender's name
- Accept different ideas and expressions if they are relevant to the topic and appropriate for an email to a friend.

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Question Number- 10 (Describing a Pie Chart) (10 Marks)**Marking Rubric**

Criterion	Marks	Description
Incorporation of Data and Comparison	5	Accurately identifies and describes the main features, key comparisons, highest and lowest values, trends, comparisons without distorting the information and overall distribution shown in the pie chart.
Organization and Coherence	3	Presents information in a logical sequence with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Uses appropriate linking words to ensure coherence.
Language Use and Mechanics	2	Uses accurate grammar, appropriate vocabulary, correct sentence structure, correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and suitable tense. Employs language appropriate for data description.

Grade Descriptor

Marks	Description
9-10	Accurately describes all key features of the pie chart with excellent organization, appropriate comparisons, and very few or no language errors.
7-8	Covers most important information with good organization and generally accurate language; only minor errors.
5-6	Describes the main information but omits some important details or comparisons; noticeable language and organizational weaknesses.
3-4	Limited description with inaccurate interpretation, weak organization, and frequent language errors.
0-2	Unable to describe the chart accurately; information is irrelevant, copied, or largely incorrect.

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award marks for **accurate interpretation, not merely repeating the data.**
- Credit students who summarize the **main features, make meaningful comparisons, and identify the largest and smallest proportions and completes the task within the prescribed word limit.**
- Award marks for the use of appropriate reporting expressions (e.g., *accounts for, represents, constitutes, the highest proportion, compared with, whereas*).
- Carefully award marks to **responses that only list percentages without explanation or comparison.**
- **Minor grammatical or mechanical errors should not receive heavy penalties unless they significantly affect clarity.**
- **Do not deduct marks if the writing exceeds or slightly falls short of the prescribed word limit.**

Question Number- 11 (Theme Writing) (8 Marks)**Marking Rubric**

Criterion	Marks	Description
Concept and Central Idea	4	Clearly identifies and accurately explains the central theme(s) of the poem with relevant interpretation.
Organization and Coherence	2	Presents ideas in a logical sequence with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Uses appropriate linking devices.
Language Use and Mechanics	2	Uses appropriate vocabulary, accurate grammar, and clear sentence structures.

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Grade Descriptor

Marks	Description
7-8	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the poem's theme with relevant textual support, clear organization, and accurate language.
5-6	Explains the main theme accurately with some supporting evidence; organization and language are generally effective.
3-4	Shows a basic understanding of the theme but lacks depth, sufficient textual support, or clear organization.
0-2	Unable to identify or explain the theme accurately; response is irrelevant, copied, or largely incomprehensible.

Guidelines for Examiners

- Award marks for **critical understanding** of the poem rather than mere retelling of its content.
- Give credit for identifying **both the central theme and any significant subsidiary themes**, where relevant.
- Accept different interpretations **provided they are logically argued and supported by the text**.
- Minor grammatical or mechanical errors should not receive heavy penalties unless they seriously affect clarity or meaning.

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