



## SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University

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TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 002.



## Department of English

### Instructional Material

#### General English - I

**23ELGE1**

## **Department of English**

### **Instructional Material**

#### **COURSE: I BBA, IBA, IB.COM, I B.Sc, IB.COM IBM, IBCA**

##### **SECTION A: One-Marks**

1. Who is the author of I Am Malala?

Ans: Malala Yousafzai

2. What does UNICEF stand for?

Ans: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

3. Who wrote The Story of My Experiments with Truth?

Ans: M.K. Gandhi

4. In which poem do we find the line "Where the mind is without fear"?

Ans: Where the Mind is Without Fear by Rabindranath Tagore

5. What is the theme of the poem Love Cycle by Chinua Achebe?

Ans: The cycle of emotions in love

6. Who wrote Nine Gold Medals?

Ans: David Roth

7. What kind of story is The School for Sympathy?

Ans: A short story promoting empathy

8. Name a poem written by William Wordsworth in your syllabus.

Ans: Alice Fell or Poverty

9. Who is the author of Barn Burning?

Ans: William Faulkner

10. Which poem was written by Robert Frost?

Ans: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

11. What is a pronoun?

Ans: A word that replaces a noun

12. Give one example of an adjective.

Ans: Beautiful

13. What is an article?

Ans: A, An, and The

14. Name the four types of sentences in essay writing.

Ans: Descriptive, Expository, Persuasive, Narrative

15. What does LSRW stand for?

Ans: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing

16. Who is the author of The Magic Brocade?

Ans: Traditional Chinese folktale

17. What is the main message in The Things That Haven't Been Done Before?

Ans: Innovation and courage

18. What is empathy?

Ans: The ability to understand others' feelings

19. What is the use of prepositions?

Ans: To show the relationship of a noun/pronoun with another word

20. What is a verb?

Ans: A word that denotes action or state

## SECTION B: Two-Marks

1. What is the significance of Chapter 1 in I Am Malala?

Ans: It introduces Malala's early life, her love for learning, and the cultural and political background of her hometown.

2. What is the message in Where the Mind is Without Fear?

Ans: The poem envisions a free, fearless, and rational India, emphasizing the importance of knowledge and unity.

3. How does the poem Nine Gold Medals show empathy?

Ans: The poem highlights how athletes sacrificed their personal victory to help a fallen participant, showcasing human compassion.

4. Write two functions of adjectives.

Ans: Adjectives describe nouns and help specify qualities like size, color, quantity, etc.

5. What is the purpose of expository writing?

Ans: To explain, clarify, or inform the reader about a particular topic.

6. What lesson does The School for Sympathy teach?

Ans: It teaches the value of understanding others' challenges and treating everyone with kindness and respect.

7. How does Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening reflect inner conflict?

Ans: The speaker is tempted by peace and beauty but is reminded of duties and responsibilities.

8. Define noun and give an example.

Ans: A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. Example: Book

9. What is a persuasive essay?

Ans: A persuasive essay aims to convince the reader to agree with the writer's viewpoint.

10. What is the role of pronouns in writing?

Ans: Pronouns avoid repetition and make writing smoother and less redundant.

### SECTION C: Five-Marks

1. Write a character sketch of Malala Yousafzai based on Chapter 1.

Malala Yousafzai is introduced as a courageous and determined young girl from Pakistan's Swat Valley. She deeply values education, inspired by her father's passion for learning and equality. Even as a child, Malala was outspoken and curious, always asking questions and striving for justice. In Chapter 1 of *I Am Malala*, she speaks about her background, family, and the cultural challenges that shaped her early life. Her bravery in standing up for girls' education under Taliban rule reflects her strong moral values and leadership. She is a symbol of hope, resilience, and the power of a young voice against oppression.

2. Explain the central idea of Where the Mind is Without Fear.

Rabindranath Tagore's poem *Where the Mind is Without Fear* envisions an ideal nation where freedom, truth, and knowledge prevail. The poem is a prayer for India to rise above narrow divisions and superstitions. Tagore dreams of a land where people think freely, speak truthfully,

and act with courage. The poem calls for intellectual and moral awakening among citizens. He emphasizes the need for reason over blind faith and wishes that his countrymen strive toward perfection. This poem is both spiritual and patriotic, expressing Tagore's hope for a progressive and enlightened India.

3. Describe the main theme of Nine Gold Medals.

Nine Gold Medals by David Roth is a touching poem that highlights unity, compassion, and sportsmanship. The poem tells the story of nine athletes in a race. When one contestant stumbles and falls, the others stop, turn back, and help him up. Instead of finishing the race competitively, they cross the finish line together. The event ends with all nine athletes receiving gold medals. The poem celebrates empathy over competition and shows how true victory lies in human kindness and solidarity. It teaches that moral courage and compassion are more valuable than winning.

4. Compare Alice Fell and The School for Sympathy on the theme of compassion.

Both Alice Fell by Wordsworth and The School for Sympathy by E.V. Lucas explore the theme of compassion. In Alice Fell, a little orphan girl suffers due to poverty, and the narrator feels deeply for her, offering her some comfort and money. The poem urges readers to notice the pain of others. In The School for Sympathy, a unique institution educates children to develop empathy and understanding. The students are taught to care for others, especially the physically or emotionally challenged. While the poem focuses on spontaneous emotion, the story presents a systematic way of nurturing empathy. Both works emphasize the importance of feeling for others in society.

5. Explain the significance of Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.

In Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, Robert Frost presents a moment of peaceful reflection. The speaker pauses to admire the tranquil snow-covered woods. Although he is tempted to stay and enjoy the beauty, he remembers his duties and promises. The poem symbolizes the conflict between personal desires and responsibilities. The repeated line "And miles to go before I sleep" suggests obligations in life before one can rest. The woods may represent temptations or even death, while the journey continues toward purpose and duty. The poem is rich in imagery, simplicity, and philosophical depth.

6. Write a short essay on "Empathy as a Life Skill."

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. It is a crucial life skill that promotes emotional intelligence, cooperation, and harmony. In our daily lives, empathy helps

build stronger relationships at home, in schools, and at workplaces. It allows us to listen without judgment and respond with kindness. People who practice empathy are better at resolving conflicts and creating inclusive communities. Empathy also reduces bullying and promotes respect for others. It can be taught and developed through stories, real-life experiences, and social interactions. In today's divided world, empathy is more important than ever.

7. Explain the importance of parts of speech in grammar.

Parts of speech are the foundation of English grammar. They categorize words based on their function in a sentence. The eight parts of speech are noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. Knowing these helps in forming correct sentences and improves writing and speaking skills. For example, nouns name things, verbs show actions, adjectives describe, and prepositions show relationships. Mastering parts of speech allows better understanding of sentence structure, helps avoid errors, and makes communication clear and effective.

8. How does The Magic Brocade reflect Chinese culture and values?

The Magic Brocade is a traditional Chinese folktale that reflects the values of respect, perseverance, and filial piety. The story centers around a poor family, where the mother weaves a beautiful brocade. When it is lost, her youngest son risks everything to recover it, facing magical trials. His loyalty and bravery show the importance of honoring one's parents—a key value in Chinese culture. The tale also highlights the power of determination and belief in the extraordinary. The fantastical elements symbolize Chinese myths and traditions, making it both a moral lesson and a cultural tale.

9. Write a descriptive paragraph about your hometown.

My hometown is a peaceful and scenic place surrounded by greenery and hills. It is known for its clean environment and friendly people. The streets are lined with small shops, temples, and parks. There is a beautiful river that flows through the town, adding to its charm. The mornings are calm with the sound of birds, and the evenings are lively with people gathering in markets. Festivals are celebrated with joy and unity. I love my hometown for its simplicity, beauty, and warmth.

10. Write an expository paragraph on the importance of reading habits.

Reading is one of the best habits a person can develop. It enhances vocabulary, improves concentration, and builds knowledge. Regular reading sharpens the mind and reduces stress. It also stimulates imagination and creativity. Reading different genres—fiction, non-fiction, poetry—helps understand the world better. Students who read regularly perform well in

academics. It is a lifelong skill that contributes to personal growth and success. In today's digital age, encouraging reading is essential for intellectual and emotional development.

#### SECTION D: Ten Marks

##### 1. Critically analyze Chapter 1 of I Am Malala and its relevance to education today.

Chapter 1 of I Am Malala introduces readers to Malala's childhood in Pakistan's Swat Valley, her family, and her passion for education. Malala describes how education shaped her identity and how her father's role as an educator inspired her. The chapter also sets the context of Taliban's growing influence, which threatened girls' right to education. Malala's voice represents millions of children, especially girls, who face obstacles in accessing schools.

The chapter is relevant today because it highlights the power of education to transform lives and societies. It also raises awareness about gender discrimination and extremist threats. Malala's courage, even as a young girl, reminds us that change begins with individual voices. Her story continues to inspire global movements for girls' education and the importance of defending human rights. Education is not just about literacy but about empowerment and dignity, as shown in this chapter.

##### 2. Discuss how Gandhi's autobiography reflects his journey toward truth and self-discipline.

In The Story of My Experiments with Truth, M.K. Gandhi shares his personal journey of discovering truth through self-exploration, mistakes, and moral experiments. Chapters 1–3 give insight into his early childhood, marriage at a young age, and first experiences with honesty and guilt. Gandhi openly discusses his fears, struggles with meat-eating, and attempts to understand his inner self.

Gandhi's approach to truth was deeply personal—he believed in learning by doing and correcting himself through reflection. His commitment to non-violence (Ahimsa), self-discipline, and truth (Satya) began in these formative years. The autobiography stands as a guide for ethical living, humility, and continuous self-improvement. It is not a story of perfection but of striving toward it. Gandhi's story teaches that truth is not just spoken—it is lived.

##### 3. Evaluate the theme of national and personal freedom in Tagore's poem Where the Mind is Without Fear.

Rabindranath Tagore's poem Where the Mind is Without Fear is a powerful plea for both national and individual freedom. The poet dreams of an ideal India—free from fear, ignorance, and narrow divisions. The poem was written during British rule, but its meaning goes beyond political independence. It calls for freedom of thought, expression, and knowledge.

Tagore envisions a society where people can raise their heads with dignity, where truth is spoken courageously, and minds are not broken by old traditions or superstitions. The personal freedom he desires includes intellectual liberty and moral strength.

The poet's hope for a progressive nation lies in education, unity, and rational thinking. The final lines suggest that divine guidance is necessary to awaken such a nation. The poem's universal appeal lies in its timeless call for a society driven by reason, courage, and truth. It is as relevant today as it was during the freedom struggle.

#### 4. How do the stories in Unit II portray different aspects of empathy?

Unit II of the syllabus focuses on the theme of empathy through various poems and short stories. In *Nine Gold Medals* by David Roth, empathy is shown when athletes sacrifice their individual dreams to support a fallen competitor. It illustrates selflessness and human connection in a competitive environment.

William Wordsworth's *Alice Fell* portrays a young orphan girl's suffering and evokes sympathy in the narrator and readers. It highlights how empathy begins with observation and emotional response.

In the short story *The School for Sympathy* by E.V. Lucas, empathy is systematically taught in an educational setting, showing that compassion can be nurtured intentionally. *Barn Burning* by William Faulkner, though more complex, explores the inner conflict of a boy torn between family loyalty and moral responsibility, evoking empathy for the character's situation.

Together, these works present empathy as an emotional, moral, and social quality essential for a better world.

#### 5. Write an essay on "The Importance of Critical Thinking in Modern Life."

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze, evaluate, and make reasoned judgments. In the modern world, where information is abundant and often misleading, critical thinking is more important than ever. It allows individuals to question assumptions, identify biases, and solve problems logically.

In education, critical thinking helps students move beyond rote learning. It fosters creativity and deeper understanding. In professional life, it is essential for decision-making, innovation, and conflict resolution. Critical thinkers are better at evaluating facts, understanding multiple perspectives, and resisting manipulation.

Socially, critical thinking enables responsible citizenship. It empowers people to make informed choices, whether in voting, media consumption, or ethical dilemmas. It also encourages open-mindedness and respectful debate. In a world influenced by social media, fake news, and fast-paced decisions, critical thinking is the key to clarity and truth. Developing this skill can lead to more thoughtful individuals and a healthier, more rational society.