SCERT Kerala · Class 10 · English

English Part 1

PADIKAM
ENGLISH
PART I
Complete Study Notes · Standard X · English Medium · SCERT Kerala 2025 syllabus coverage

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Unit III - The Trumpets of Change · Short story
How to study
Read the overview, retell it in your own words, connect each idea with an event or image, and then answer the exam questions without looking back.
Official textbook
https://scert.kerala.gov.in/class-x/

UNIT I - TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS · LESSON 1
A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings
Short story · Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Quick overview
After a storm, Pelayo and Elisenda find an aged winged man in their courtyard. They confine him, display him for money and neglect him after the crowd loses interest. He survives illness and cruelty, grows new feathers and finally flies away. The strange event reveals more about ordinary human beings than about the mysterious visitor.
Core ideas
Difference often produces fear, curiosity and exploitation instead of compassion.
The couple turns wonder into profit and treats a vulnerable being as property.
The old man's patience and survival contrast with the crowd's cruelty and shallow faith.
The ending offers freedom, but Elisenda's relief shows that she never fully understands him.
Literary and language focus
Magical realism places an impossible figure inside an ordinary domestic world.
Irony exposes the gap between religious expectation and actual behaviour.
Grotesque physical details remove the conventional grandeur of an angel.

Writing practice
Character sketch of the old man or Elisenda
Diary entry from the old man's imagined viewpoint
News report on the arrival or departure
Paragraph on empathy towards people who appear different
Exam questions
1. Why is patience called the old man's only supernatural virtue?
2. How does the story criticise commercialisation and mob behaviour?
3. Explain the significance of the final flight.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT I - TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS · LESSON 2
In the Attic
Survivor testimony · Wladyslaw Szpilman
Quick overview
During the destruction of Warsaw, the exhausted narrator hides alone in an abandoned building. A German officer discovers him and asks him to play the piano. The music and the narrator's condition awaken the officer's humanity; he brings food, advises him about safety and helps him survive. The testimony presents endurance amid war and an unexpected act of mercy across enemy lines.
Core ideas
War reduces human life to fear, hunger, hiding and uncertainty.
Art preserves identity when nearly everything else has been taken away.
The officer's choice shows that conscience can survive inside a violent system.
Testimony makes large historical suffering personal and immediate.
Literary and language focus
First-person narration creates urgency and credibility.
Suspense grows from silence, footsteps, discovery and uncertainty about the officer.
The piano becomes a symbol of memory, dignity and human connection.
Writing practice
Narrative from the officer's point of view
Letter of gratitude written after the war
Profile of a survivor
Speech on art as a source of hope
Exam questions
1. How does the attic function both as shelter and prison?
2. Why is the piano episode central to the narrative?
3. What does the officer's conduct reveal about moral choice?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT I - TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS · LESSON 3
Friends, Romans, Countrymen...
Dramatic speech · William Shakespeare
Quick overview
After Caesar's assassination, Antony addresses the Roman crowd under conditions set by Brutus. He begins calmly, repeatedly calls the conspirators honourable, recalls Caesar's generosity and compassion, shows the wounds, and refers to the will. Step by step he transforms the crowd's judgement and releases powerful public anger.
Core ideas
Public opinion can be reshaped by language, emotion and selected evidence.
Ambition is debated through Caesar's actions rather than a direct declaration.
Antony appears obedient while steadily undermining the conspirators.
Political speech carries responsibility because words can mobilise a crowd.
Literary and language focus
Verbal irony makes “honourable” acquire the opposite meaning.

Repetition, rhetorical questions, pauses and emotional appeal build persuasion.
Dramatic irony lets the audience recognise Antony's strategy before the crowd does.
Writing practice
Write a persuasive speech with a clear audience and purpose
Prepare a newspaper report on the funeral
Compare Brutus's and Antony's methods
Convert key ideas into reported speech
Exam questions
1. How does Antony obey the letter but defeat the purpose of Brutus's conditions?
2. Trace the change in the crowd.
3. Analyse Antony's use of irony and the will.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT II - PATHS TO PROGRESS · LESSON 4
Breaking Barriers, I Will Fly
Inspirational article · Profile of Srikanth Bolla
Quick overview
Born blind and repeatedly denied expected educational opportunities, Srikanth Bolla refuses to accept other people's limits. He pursues science and higher education, develops entrepreneurial skill and creates Bollant Industries, which makes eco-friendly packaging and employs people with disabilities. His success joins personal determination with inclusive social responsibility.
Core ideas
Disability becomes a barrier mainly when institutions deny access and expectation.
Self-belief needs education, opportunity, mentors and sustained work.
True entrepreneurship can combine profit, environmental care and inclusion.
Success is strongest when it opens doors for others.
Literary and language focus
The article follows challenge, response, achievement and social contribution.
Specific obstacles make the achievement credible rather than sentimental.
The title expresses confidence and forward movement.
Writing practice
Magazine article on the entrepreneur
Biographical sketch
Interview questions and answers
Speech on inclusive education
Exam questions
1. Which barriers were social rather than physical?
2. How does Bollant Industries reflect Srikanth's values?
3. Explain the message conveyed by the title.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT II - PATHS TO PROGRESS · LESSON 5
A Phoenix Rises
Biographical story · Life of Arunachalam Muruganantham
Quick overview
Arunachalam Muruganantham notices the unsafe menstrual practices forced on women by the cost of sanitary pads. With limited education and resources, he experiments for years, faces ridicule and isolation, discovers a low-cost production method and develops simple machines that support women-led local enterprises. Like a phoenix, he rebuilds his life through purpose and persistence.
Core ideas
Innovation begins by noticing an ignored human problem.
Social taboo can obstruct health, research and open conversation.
Failure becomes useful when each attempt produces new knowledge.
Appropriate technology can create dignity, health and livelihoods.
Literary and language focus

The phoenix symbol represents renewal after humiliation and failure.
A chronological structure makes the long experimental struggle clear.
Contrast between public ridicule and later recognition sharpens the achievement.
Writing practice
Biographical sketch
Interview with the innovator
Feature article on menstrual health
Product-description or awareness poster text
Exam questions
1. Why is the title appropriate?
2. How did social attitudes make the inventor's task difficult?
3. What distinguishes his innovation from a purely commercial invention?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT II - PATHS TO PROGRESS · LESSON 6
The Seedling
Poem · Paul Laurence Dunbar
Quick overview
A tiny seed lies hidden beneath the soil and dreams of rising. It pushes through darkness, resists discouraging voices and grows towards light. The seedling's physical struggle becomes a simple image of human aspiration, courage and self-motivation.
Core ideas
Growth begins invisibly before the world notices it.
Obstacles test purpose but need not determine the result.
Hope and inner resolve help a person move from darkness towards possibility.
Small beginnings can contain remarkable potential.
Literary and language focus
Personification gives the seed thought, courage and voice.
Darkness and light function as symbols of difficulty and achievement.
Upward movement shapes both image and message.
Writing practice
Appreciation of imagery and personification
Paragraph on self-motivation
Compare the seedling with an achiever from the unit
Write a short motivational poem
Exam questions
1. How does the seedling become a symbol?
2. Identify the forces that encourage or discourage growth.
3. Explain the relationship between setting and theme.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT III - THE TRUMPETS OF CHANGE · LESSON 7
Another Day in Paradise
Song · Phil Collins
Quick overview
A homeless woman asks a passer-by for help and a place to stay. He avoids her and continues on his way. The refrain contrasts the comfort enjoyed by many with the suffering that society chooses not to see, turning “paradise” into a bitterly ironic description.
Core ideas
Indifference can deepen suffering even without direct violence.
Homelessness is a human crisis, not background scenery.
Privilege creates a responsibility to notice, respond and support fair systems.
A society may call itself comfortable while excluding vulnerable people.
Literary and language focus
Refrain makes the social appeal memorable.

Direct address brings the listener into the moral question.
Irony in the title exposes unequal realities.
Writing practice
Awareness speech on homelessness
Letter to a local authority
Poster copy for a shelter campaign
Song appreciation
Exam questions
1. Why is “paradise” ironic?
2. What does the passer-by represent?
3. How does repetition strengthen the social message?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT III - THE TRUMPETS OF CHANGE · LESSON 8
War
Short story · Luigi Pirandello
Quick overview
Parents travelling by train speak about sons sent to war. They compare sacrifices and try to reason that children belong to the nation as well as to parents. A large man confidently praises his dead son's patriotic end, but a simple question from a grieving mother breaks his defence and forces him to confront his own loss.
Core ideas
Public language about glory cannot cancel private grief.
People sometimes hide pain behind arguments and performance.
No calculation can rank one parent's suffering above another's.
War turns national decisions into intimate family loss.
Literary and language focus
The railway compartment creates a compressed debate among strangers.
The large man's reversal forms the emotional climax.
Irony reveals that the strongest patriotic voice is also avoiding grief.
Writing practice
Diary entry of the large man
Conversation between passengers after the ending
Critical paragraph on war and parenthood
Character sketch
Exam questions
1. Why do the parents compare their losses?
2. What causes the large man's emotional collapse?
3. How does the ending change our understanding of his speech?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT III - THE TRUMPETS OF CHANGE · LESSON 9
A Piece of String
Short story · Guy de Maupassant
Quick overview
Hauchecome picks up a small piece of string from the road but feels embarrassed when an enemy sees him. When a pocketbook is reported missing, suspicion falls on him. Even after the pocketbook is found, the village treats his explanation as a clever lie. Obsessed with proving innocence, he is destroyed by humiliation and dies repeating his defence.
Core ideas
Prejudice can survive after facts have changed.
Reputation is fragile in a community that enjoys suspicion and gossip.
An innocent person may appear less credible when anxiety makes him repeat himself.
Society can inflict lasting harm through ridicule and refusal to reconsider.
Literary and language focus

The trivial string becomes a symbol of fatal misunderstanding.
Situational irony makes proof of innocence seem like further guilt.
The realistic village setting shows how gossip gains collective power.
Writing practice
Diary entry of Hauchecome
News report on the accusation
Character sketch
Write-up on society making or breaking an individual
Exam questions
1. Why does Hauchecome hide what he picked up?
2. Why does the truth fail to restore his reputation?
3. Explain the symbolic value of the string.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.