SCERT Kerala · Class 10 · English

English Part 2

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

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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/10thp2/

UNIT IV - WOODLAND WHISPERS · LESSON 1

Shakuntalam

Play · Kalidasa

Quick overview

King Dushyanta pursues a deer until hermits stop him from harming an animal protected by the hermitage. Entering respectfully, he observes a peaceful world in which humans, plants and animals live in trust. He then sees Shakuntala caring for the trees with her friends. The episode contrasts royal power and hunting with restraint, tenderness and ecological harmony.

Core ideas

True authority protects vulnerable life rather than displaying force.
The hermitage represents coexistence between people and nature.
Shakuntala treats plants as kin, showing care without expectation of reward.
Dushyanta's willingness to stop reveals capacity for respect and change.

Literary and language focus

Stage directions shape movement, setting and private thought.
Imagery presents the deer's fear and the grove's serenity.
Dialogue reveals character while moving the action.

Writing practice

Character sketch of Dushyanta or Shakuntala
Prepare a short stage script
Write instructions for protecting a forest
Identify and explain stage directions

Exam questions

1. Why do the hermits stop the hunt?
2. How is the hermitage different from the world of the chase?
3. What does Shakuntala's care for trees reveal?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT IV - WOODLAND WHISPERS · LESSON 2
Trills and Thrills: Birdwatching in India
Autobiographical account · Salim Ali
Quick overview
Salim Ali recalls how curiosity about a bird led him towards systematic observation and a lifelong study of Indian birds. Field travel, patience, note-taking and collaboration turn interest into scientific work. His experiences also show that knowing birds requires knowing habitats and protecting the environments on which they depend.
Core ideas
Asmall question can grow into a life's purpose.
Field science depends on patient, disciplined observation.
Knowledge creates affection and conservation responsibility.
Expertise develops through repeated practice, records and openness to correction.
Literary and language focus
First-person recollection connects childhood curiosity with later achievement.
Concrete field details give scientific work adventure and immediacy.
Description combines personal enthusiasm with factual observation.
Writing practice
Bird-observation diary
Memorial speech on a naturalist
Instructions for responsible birdwatching
Autobiographical paragraph on a personal interest
Exam questions
1. How did an early incident shape Salim Ali's future?
2. What habits make birdwatching scientific?
3. How does the account connect study with conservation?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT IV - WOODLAND WHISPERS · LESSON 3
The Wild Swans at Coole
Poem · W. B. Yeats
Quick overview
The speaker returns to Coole Park in autumn and counts the swans as he has done for many years. The scene appears still and beautiful, yet the swans remain energetic while the speaker feels the passage of time and changes in his own heart. Their apparent permanence intensifies his awareness of ageing and possible loss.
Core ideas
Nature can appear enduring while human life changes quickly.
Beauty brings delight together with sadness about time.
The swans suggest vitality, companionship and mysterious freedom.
Memory layers the present landscape with earlier versions of the self.
Literary and language focus
Autumn imagery establishes maturity and change.
Contrast between still water, lively swans and ageing speaker creates tension.
Counting and repeated return give the poem a meditative structure.
Writing practice
Poem appreciation
Explain symbols of autumn, water and swans
Personal reflection on revisiting a place
Compare permanence and change

Exam questions
1. Why is the nineteenth autumn important?
2. How do the swans contrast with the speaker?
3. What fear is suggested near the end?
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT V - SONGS OF THE SELF · LESSON 4
Beloved Boles
Short story · Maxim Gorky
Quick overview
Astudent living opposite Teresa judges her harshly by appearance and manner. She asks him to write letters to her beloved Boles and later to write replies. He eventually learns that Boles does not exist: the imagined correspondence gives a lonely woman affection and hope. The discovery exposes his prejudice and teaches him to see her inner life.
Core ideas
Appearance is a poor guide to another person's emotional world.
Loneliness can create imaginative ways of seeking connection.
Empathy begins when judgement gives way to listening.
Words and letters can offer dignity even when their situation is invented.
Literary and language focus
First-person narration allows the narrator's change to become part of the story.
The invented correspondent creates suspense and emotional irony.
Contrast between Teresa's rough exterior and tender need challenges stereotype.
Writing practice
Character sketch of Teresa
Diary entry of the narrator
Acompassionate letter to Teresa
Essay on appearance and reality
Exam questions
1. Why does Teresa invent Boles?
2. How does the narrator's attitude change?
3. Explain the title after learning the truth.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT V - SONGS OF THE SELF · LESSON 5
Preference Nationale
Autobiographical story · Fatou Diome
Quick overview
An educated African immigrant in France encounters employment barriers, racial assumptions and the policy or attitude of preferring nationals. Work far below her qualifications and everyday humiliations challenge her self-worth, yet her sharp observation exposes the hypocrisy of a society that speaks of equality while practising exclusion.
Core ideas
Migration may offer opportunity while producing displacement and unequal treatment.
Racism operates through institutions, employment and ordinary speech.
Qualification does not guarantee recognition when prejudice controls access.
Satire and self-respect become ways to resist dehumanisation.
Literary and language focus
Autobiographical voice gives discrimination personal authority.
Satire reveals contradictions between national ideals and lived reality.
Specific encounters represent a wider system without reducing the narrator to victimhood.
Writing practice
Letter describing discrimination
Radio-play adaptation
Speech on equal opportunity

Critical note on the title
Exam questions
1. What does the title reveal about employment and belonging?
2. How does the narrator preserve dignity?
3. Identify one example where social ideals and practice conflict.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.

UNIT V - SONGS OF THE SELF · LESSON 6
Mirror
Poem · Sylvia Plath
Quick overview
Amirror speaks as an exact, unemotional observer. It then becomes a lake into which a woman looks each day, searching for her true self while time alters her face. The poem explores truth, ageing, identity and the uneasy dependence on reflection.
Core ideas
Truth may feel cruel even when the observer claims neutrality.
Identity cannot be reduced to physical appearance, yet appearance powerfully affects self-perception.
Daily reflection records time and ageing.
The search for a “true” self can become anxious and consuming.
Literary and language focus
Personification gives the mirror an authoritative but questionable voice.
The lake metaphor adds depth, searching and uncertainty.
Images of drowning and rising transform ageing into a disturbing final vision.
Writing practice
Poem appreciation
Monologue spoken by another everyday object
Analyse personification and metaphor
Paragraph on self-image and social pressure
Exam questions
1. Why does the mirror call itself exact?
2. What changes when it becomes a lake?
3. Explain the final image and its emotional effect.
One-minute recall: Say the plot or central idea, two themes and one technique without looking back.