



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

HIGHER SECONDARY - SECOND YEAR

ENGLISH

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Department of School Education

Untouchability is Inhuman and a Crime



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# PREFACE

The general English syllabus for Class 12 aligns with the recommendations of the National Curriculum Framework 2005. Based on the communicative approach to language learning, the textbook follows the design and structure of the revised class 11 Course Book published in 2017. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner needs to be able to competently collaborate, think critically, solve problems and access digital resources proficiently. Therefore, the selected texts, drawn from different genres, themes and writings across the world are age appropriate, value oriented and motivating. The tasks based on the texts encourage and train the learner to:

- ❖ seamlessly integrate the use of the four major language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing naturally and confidently
- ❖ acquire fluency and accuracy in Speaking and Writing and ensure appropriate use of format, style and structure
- ❖ enrich vocabulary through guided practice
- ❖ develop an attitude of contemplation and enquiry which fosters analytical and critical thinking skills
- ❖ understand and appreciate prose, poetry and drama
- ❖ inculcate creativity and initiative
- ❖ understand contemporary issues that they will face in the world outside the school
- ❖ participate actively in the learning process by following clear guidelines that encourage collaborative learning through pair work, group work and whole class work



# Special Features

- ❖ Warm-up activities lead the students to the theme of each lesson.
- ❖ Warm up activities lead the students to the theme of each text.
- ❖ Includes texts from a wide variety of genres offering learning experiences which promote discussion, and writing with clarity and creativity, facilitate the learners to analyze, interpret and extrapolate the texts.
- ❖ 'Item boxes' are given wherever suitable, to encourage learners to read beyond the prescribed texts.
- ❖ Language skills are reinforced by relevant 'check-points', intensive practice in speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- ❖ Vocabulary is expanded and grammar is internalised.
- ❖ Interesting activities are provided to motivate learners to use the language in context and acquire essential language skills.
- ❖ Innovative features like Grammar Games, ICT Corner, Infographics and Learning Links lead the learners to further learning.



## An Overview

### Unit - 1

The prose section contains a touching narration titled **'Two Gentlemen of Verona'** by **A.J. Cronin**, which describes the responsible and mature behaviour of two young brothers who toil day and night to pay for the treatment of their elder sister, a war victim who suffers from a critical disease. **'The Castle'** by **Edwin Muir** describes the fall of a formidable castle caused by betrayal from within. The supplementary section consists of **Leo Tolstoy's** short story **'God Sees the Truth but Waits'**, which describes the ultimate triumph of truth proving a convict's innocence. It also brings out the magnanimous nature of Aksionov who forgives the actual culprit and breathes his last peacefully.

**Grammar :** Tenses, Modal auxiliaries, Reported speech

**Writing :** Letter Writing

### Unit - 2

**A Nice Cup of Tea** is an essay by **George Orwell**. It is a description of the craft of making tea. In the poem **'Our Casuarina Tree'** the poet **Toru Dutt** describes the huge tree in her garden which symbolises her happy childhood associations. **'Life of Pi'** by **Yann Martel** is a 'fantasy' which describes the incredible experience of a young man who survives a dangerous ordeal in the sea. The story was made into a film in the year 2012.

**Grammar :** Prepositions, Prepositional phrases, Conjunctions and connectives.

**Writing :** Article Writing, Essay Writing

### Unit - 3

**'In Celebration of Being Alive'** is an extract from a speech of **Dr. Christian Barnard**, the first doctor to perform a heart transplant surgery. The doctor recounts an incident involving two critically ill children, whose zest for life made him understand how important it is to celebrate being alive. **William Shakespeare's** poem **'All the World's a Stage'**, traces the seven different stages in a man's life with all the characteristics of each stage. **Percival Wilde's** play **'The Hour of Truth'** forms the supplementary section, portraying the integrity of Robert Baldwin and his painful sacrifice of friendship in defence of truth.

**Grammar :** Active & Passive Voice, Interrogations or Questions

**Writing :** Story Writing

### Unit - 4

**'The Summit'** is a travelogue – an amazing account of the conquest of Mt. Everest by **Edmund Hillary** and Tenzing Norgay. The poem **'Ulysses'** by **Alfred Tennyson** describes the mythical Greek hero's unquenchable thirst for adventure. **'The Midnight Visitor'** by **Robert Arthur**, is a gripping story of high drama at midnight in which a detective who defies stereotype outwits a hardened criminal with his quick wit and presence of mind.

**Grammar :** Kinds of Sentences, Conditional Clauses

**Writing :** Summarizing, Interpreting Non-Verbal Presentations

### Unit - 5

**'The Chair'** is a short story by **Ki. Rajanarayanan** which narrates the humorous incidents that happen after the arrival of a chair. The poem **'A Father to his Son'** by **Carl August Sandburg** captures a loving father's invaluable advice to his son. **'All Summer in a Day'** by **Ray Bradbury**, a piece of science fiction, explores the theme of life on planet Venus.

**Grammar :** Non-Finite Verbs, Degrees of Comparison

**Writing :** Slogan Writing, Paragraph Writing

### Unit - 6

**'On the Rule of the Road'** an essay by **A.G Gardiner**, emphasises the importance of responsible public behaviour respecting the liberty of others and upholding the norms of the society. The poem **'Incident of the French Camp'** by **Robert Browning**, is a heartrending story of a young soldier who sacrifices his life for the sake of his country with great pride and honour. The humorous play **'Remember Caesar'** by **Gordon Daviot** revolves around Lord Weston's mistaken threat to his life.

**Grammar :** Concord

**Writing :** Describing a Process

# Contents

1	Prose	Two Gentlemen of Verona	1	June
	Poem	The Castle	19	
	Supplementary	God Sees the Truth but Waits	24	
2	Prose	A Nice Cup of Tea	34	July
	Poem	Our Casuarina Tree	52	
	Supplementary	Life of Pi	58	
3	Prose	In Celebration of Being Alive	67	August
	Poem	All the World's a Stage	88	
	Supplementary	The Hour of Truth (Play)	95	
4	Prose	The Summit	111	August & September
	Poem	Ulysses	127	
	Supplementary	The Midnight Visitor	135	
5	Prose	The Chair	142	October
	Poem	A Father to his Son	162	
	Supplementary	All Summer in a Day	169	
6	Prose	On the Rule of the Road	178	November & December
	Poem	Incident of the French Camp	190	
	Supplementary	Remember Caesar (Play)	196	



E - book



Assessment