

ICSE Solved Paper 2020

English Paper-1 (Language)

Class-X

(Maximum Marks : 80)

(Time allowed : Two hour)

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1.

and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

1. (Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

- (a) Write an original short story entitled 'The Secret'.
(b) 'A family without pets is an incomplete family'.

Express your views either for or against this statement.

- (c) What do you prefer - morning, afternoon, evening or night?

Describe your favourite time of the day. What are the sights, sounds, smells and feelings that you associate with your favourite time of the day? Why do you like this part of the day better than the others.

- (d) Have you ever said or done something that changed the life of another person?

Give an account of your words or actions that led to this change and describe how the experience made you feel.

- (e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Ans. (a)

The Secret

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon in the hot simmering month of July. Mother was reading her favorite book in a cozy and peaceful corner of our home, whereas father was browsing through the T.V. channels. It was a very satisfying moment of the day since it was to be followed by a heavy brunch. Little did I know that this peaceful aura was going to turn into something extraordinary.

I was in my room, deciding on a very important matter regarding my dolls' dresses. There was soon to be a competition called "Show and Tell" in school, whereby each participant had to show-off his/her favourite item and talk about it. Suddenly something moved in the room. I glanced to the other side. It all seemed fine. Just then suddenly, something zoomed over my head with a low buzzing sound! I stood up jolted, wide-eyed and looking in all directions frantically, not believing what I saw.

"Please, don't scream! Please, don't scream!" exclaimed a doll, in a sweet voice, with wings, hovering mid-air, looking at me with doe-eyes.

Mustering courage, I replied, "Who are you?! How are you flying? Are you alive?"

"My name is Merryweather and I live in the forests, among the rarest of flowers found on the Earth. I am a fairy."

"A fairy! But they don't exist, do they? Isn't magic and fairies a myth? A fantasy?" I blabbered.

"No, there are many other fairies like me where I live. However, we don't venture out of the forest during the day in fear of men. I have heard, men do not treat Mother Nature well. Our Fairy Queen says men exploit nature. Is it true?"

While the little doll-fairy was talking, her dress changed colors with her flapping butterfly-wings giving out sparkle dust. She really was a fairy!

The next day, I was excited for the "Show and Tell" competition in school. I stood first for the same; everybody could not stop praising and admiring my doll. And while everybody was doing so, Merryweather and we winked at each other and giggled because she was my own little secret!

(b) A Family Without Pets is an Incomplete Family

In today's fast paced world and emerging nuclear family structures in urban households, it is evident that traditional values of one's and love is losing its essence in proportion to the "busy-ness" of immediate family members. Cut throat competitions in school performances, markets, companies and firms as well as looming financial burdens increasing at the expense of better lifestyles have a direct impact on quality of domestic life we live and the relationships we build.

The idea of adopting pets becomes an interesting coping mechanism in today's relationship-blues. Pets like dogs are known for their loyalty and sincere love to their owners and are famously called, "man's best-friend". They develop keenness towards old-age and new-born alike and serve as companions and protectors whilst taking care of them through gestures and emotions not seen in other animals. In doing so, a bond is created between humans and animals that binds the family together. Furthermore, the attention and focus on the pet creates a self-less dominion of care-taking for members that find themselves driven towards a single goal, collectively. Purpose is not served only by co-existing but in acknowledging each other's different wants and needs that eventually leads to empathetic values towards and among family members. Furthermore, pets can be attention-seekers that demand routine and divert members' inclusiveness to a more social approach. For example, taking one's pet for a walk daily, going to shop for pet-food, taking part in pet-festivals that include games and competitions, or going to the vet – such activities harbour a sense of togetherness among children and adults alike that find these opportunities pleasant. Pets can also be great supporters in grievous and challenging times.

Hence, nowadays, adoption of pets has proven to be a significant way to strengthen ties as well as to ground one's reality in humanitarian and social relations rather than solely virtual one. Family now comes to constitute of parents, children and pet and prove to work together stronger and healthier than others. It can be rightly

suggested that, "A family without pets is an incomplete family."

- (c) For me, the favorite time of the day is early morning. I get up at 5 a.m. After my routine cleaning, I go out and take a walk for around forty-five minutes. After coming back, I take a cup of tea and light breakfast. After that, I sit in the verandah facing the garden and read the newspaper. Then I take a bath and get ready for my daily chores.

I enjoy the peaceful and soothing atmosphere of early morning. It makes me feel fresh. I can plan my day very well, as this is also the time when I can find solutions for some of the most complex tasks that reel my mind.

Morning walk is very important for me. I go to a park that is nearby. Here, I get a chance to interact with some of my friends. I spend time close to nature. The soft morning breeze, the soothing temperature and the tranquil atmosphere all add immense joy to my early morning walk. The sight of the refreshing green grass and the sweet odor of nature refreshes both my mind and body.

The return walk from the park is equally enjoyable. School children can be seen, hurrying off to school, with the burden of their school bags. Many children of my locality greet me on the way. I return their greetings with a wide grin. It really brightens up my spirit. I never forget to get some jalebi's from the corner shop. We really enjoy it on the breakfast table.

Sunday mornings are much more enjoyable. I have a lot of time to spend in the park during morning walks. I get time to talk to the old gardener there. We discuss about the plants and different types of manures. Sometimes, he accompanies me home to tend my garden. I get useful tips over a cup of tea. On these mornings, I find nothing more enjoyable than sitting under the mango tree and reading one of my favourite books.

Well, these are some of the things that make my mornings the most favourite time of the day.

- (d) Every community, religion, and belief teaches us the age-old values of kindness, charity, and selflessness. While virtues are universally preached, we often tend to lose focus of them owing to worldly diversions. However, there some instances in life that make us realize the importance and significance of the values that sustain the essence called "humanity".

It was on a hot summer day, returning from school with a friend that such an

incident occurred. The site was a boon. The sweltering afternoon sun had sucked our energy. Hence, we ran towards our relief as fast as we could.

As soon as we got there, my friend started browsing through the hanging catalogue. I chimed in my options too. Soon, someone quietly popped up behind us. I turned behind to notice a boy. He had no school bag, he was not even wearing a uniform of any sort. With tattered clothes, he presented a shabby look. He gave us a broad grin. My friend instantly moved away from the spot and directed me in gestures to do the same, as if the uninvited guest was to be stayed away from.

I felt a sense of guilt in doing so. Therefore, with a puny amount of money I had, I bought not two but three orange-flavoured ice candies. My friend hesitated for a while but seeing the smile on the boy's face, grinning from ear to ear, gave in. The three of us sat by the lane under the shade of the banyan tree and ate our ice creams which felt sweeter, tastier, and more flavoursome than usual.

Our bond didn't end there. We invited our new friend to play cricket with us every other day and my mother decided to teach him every evening. His mother works as a domestic help in our house and he studies in class eight with a promising future.

- (e) This is a photograph of Ramu, the eight year old son of our caretaker in our village house. It was clicked by me three years ago when we were visiting our village. It was probably the first and the last picture of that lively little boy.

He was so obsessed with mobile phones that he would spend hours making them out of paper, cardboard and even small pieces of wood. He would then play around the village with his little group of children. This picture was clicked during my first encounter with Ramu. As I was going down the dusty village path in the morning, I saw this group led by Ramu, pretending to click selfies using one of his slippers as a mobile camera. It was an amusing sight. Every time a selfie was clicked, the entire group would surround Ramu and they would pretend to admire the picture. This game went on for hours using different locations as selfie points. I also became a part of his play group. He would ask, "Sahib, can you get a tuntuna for me?" his name for a mobile phone. I would say when you come down to stay with me in the city then I would get you one. On returning, life went on as usual. Some months later Ramu's father came to Lucknow. He had come to get medicines

for Ramu, as he was very ill for the last one month. I contributed some money, and sincerely prayed for his recovery. Another week and I got the news that Ramu was seriously ill and was admitted to the hospital. I hurriedly reached the hospital. He was reduced to a skeleton. I asked him whether I should get him his 'tuntuna', but he showed no expressions. I was shocked when the doctor told me that his liver has failed completely and he won't survive beyond a fortnight. I visited the hospital daily. I tried to talk to Ramu, but he never responded. His condition worsened with each passing day and before long, he had passed into oblivion, as unreal as his selfies.

2. (Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.) [10]

- (a) You have changed your school recently. Write a letter to your friend of your old school telling him / her what you like about your new school but also what you miss about your old school.
- (b) Some taps in your locality are left open all day resulting in a tremendous waste of water. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your town / city, complaining about the problem. Suggest ways in which this waste of water can be prevented.

Ans. (a) Flat No.67,
A.D.A. Colony,
Stanly Road,
Allahabad
2nd February, 2020.

Dear Sumit,

It's almost a month now since I joined my new school. I could not write earlier, as I was too busy adjusting to the new environment. It's been quite hectic. I would love to share my experiences with you.

To begin with, it's a sprawling campus, much bigger than my previous school. The classes are housed in a huge, multi-storey complex that is fully air-conditioned.

The classrooms are equipped with modern audio-visual teaching aids. We have some of the best teachers. They are helpful and nice. My English teacher is a native English speaker and I have been training under him for the debating competition, which is to be held next week. It's really thrilling. A lot of attention is paid to extra-curricular activities. This is a major difference that I have observed between my previous school and the new one.

We have many foreign students here. They are from countries like China, Japan, and Afghanistan. I love mixing with them and talking about their culture and families. I have made friends with a few of them. There are twenty five students in my class and I am friendly with almost every one of them. I am

helping one of my Chinese friends with his English.

However, our teachers are strict disciplinarians. At times, I feel lost in the new environment. I miss my old friends as well as some of my teachers. I remember the times when we used to sit and gossip during the lunch break. I turn nostalgic when I see the pictures and videos of you all. How is Aniket now? He was seriously ill when I was leaving. Please convey my regards to Auntie and Uncle. Do reply whenever you get time.

Till then Good Bye!

Your loving friend,

Srijan.

(b) Flat No. 67

A.D.A. Colony, Stanly Road,

Allahabad- 211003

2nd March, 2020

The Municipal Commissioner,

Municipal Corporation,

Allahabad.

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to your notice the problem of water wastage caused due to the irresponsible use of public taps in my area. I live in a locality adjoining a slum which is mostly inhabited by poor families. To serve their water needs, there are around eight taps that supply drinkable water round the clock. However, it is quite disturbing to see that many of these families leave the taps running, thus causing tremendous wastage of this essential natural resource. Many of these taps are in need of repair and maintenance. I presume that the same problem prevails in many other localities.

This is contributing to the scarcity of water. According to a news paper report, the amount of water wasted in this way, could very well serve the needs of a large section of the people. I would kindly request you to take immediate steps to stop this wastage.

People should be made aware of the importance of water and how it can be used without wasting. They should be trained in repair and maintenance of these taps so they may not have to wait for a plumber. Apart from this, heavy penalty should be imposed if any family or individual is caught leaving the taps running after use. These steps would go a long way in making people more responsible.

I would request you to take immediate steps to address this problem.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

A. Saleem

3. (a) **Your school is organising a fete/ carnival to raise funds for victims of the recent floods in your State.** [5]

Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board giving details of the event.

(b) **Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school, inviting him/ her to send their students to attend the fete/ carnival.** [5]

Ans. (a) Lend A Helping Hand

Fancy Fair and Fete

on 15th March 2020

from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

at Senior Football Field, M.G. Intermediate College

All students from classes I to XII, along with family members are cordially invited to this grand event. Coupons can be collected from Mrs. T. Bhaskar before 15th of March.

(b) principalstjohnschool@gmail.com

Let Us Lend A Helping Hand

Dear Sir,

Our school is organizing a fete to raise funds for the victims of the recent floods that have brought devastation in many cities of Uttar Pradesh. We promise a day full of fun and amusement. We will have different stalls put up by teachers as well as some of our students. The main attraction will be a lucky draw in which the first prize will be a Pulsar Motorcycle.

It will be held on 20th March 2020 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Senior Football Field, M.G. Intermediate College. Coupons can be collected from the counter, at the main gate.

You are kindly requested to send students from your senior section to visit the fete.

We look forward to a positive response from you.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Sanjay Kumar

Events Secretary

4. **Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Attending classes inside a railway carriage seemed unusual enough, but the seating arrangements turned out to be unusual too. At Totto-chan's previous school, each pupil was assigned a specific desk. However, here they could sit anywhere they liked at any time.

The most unusual thing of all about this school, was the lessons themselves.

Schools normally schedule one subject, for example history, during the first period, when everyone in the class just did history; then say, arithmetic in the second period, when you just did arithmetic. But here it was quite different. At the beginning of the first period, the teacher made a list of all

the problems and questions in the subjects to be studied that day. Then she would say, "Now, start with any of these you like." [10]

So, whether you started on history or arithmetic or something else didn't matter at all. Someone who liked composition might be writing something, while behind you someone who liked chemistry might be boiling something in a flask over an alcohol burner.

This method of teaching enabled the teachers to observe as the children progressed to higher grades what they were interested in as well as their way of thinking and their character. It was an *ideal* way for teachers to really get to know their pupils. [20]

As for the pupils, they loved being able to start with their favourite subject, the fact that they had all day to cope with the subjects they disliked meant they could usually manage them somehow. Therefore, study was mostly *independent*, with pupils free to go and consult the teacher whenever necessary. Then pupils would be given further exercises to work alone. It was study in the truest sense of the word, and it meant there were no pupils just sitting inattentively while the teacher talked and explained.

The first-grade pupils hadn't quite reached the stage of independent study, but even they were allowed to start with any subject they wanted.

Some copied letters of the alphabet, some drew pictures, some read books, and some even did physical exercises. [30]

Just then the boy sitting behind her got up and walked toward the blackboard with his notebook, apparently to consult the teacher. Totto-chan stopped looking around the room and fixed her eyes on his back as he walked. The boy dragged his leg and his whole body swayed from side to side. Totto-chan wondered at first if he was doing it on purpose, but she soon realized the boy couldn't help it.

The boy said brightly, "My name's Yasuaki. What's yours?"

She was so glad to hear him speak that she replied loudly, "I'm Totto-chan." [40]

Adapted from Totto-chan

- (a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: [3]

One-word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

- (i) assigned (line 3)
- (ii) ideal (line 19)
- (iii) independent (line 24)

- (b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

- (i) What was unusual about the seating arrangement? [2]
- (ii) How did the method of teaching help the teacher? [2]

- (iii) Why did the pupils enjoy their lessons at this school? [2]

- (iv) What different things did the first-grade, pupils do? [2]

- (v) Which sentence in the passage tells us that the boy had difficulty in walking like other children? [1]

- (c) In not more than 50 words, describe how the children were taught. [8]

Ans. (a) (i) assigned allocated

(ii) ideal most suitable

(iii) independent without control.

- (b) Answer the questions briefly in your own words:

(i) The seating arrangement was unusual because unlike Totto-chan's previous schools where each student was allocated a specific desk, here the students were at liberty to sit anywhere they liked at anytime.

(ii) The method of teaching enabled the teacher to understand his pupils better. The teacher could very well understand their interests, their way of thinking as well as their character.

(iii) The pupils enjoyed their lessons at this school as they could study here 'independently.' They could start the day by studying the subject of their choice and take up the subjects they disliked later in the day. They had the choice to consult the teacher whenever they needed.

(iv) The first grade pupils copied letters of the alphabet, drew pictures, read books and even did physical exercises. They were too young to be given the chance of independent study, but they were allowed to start with the subject of their choice.

(v) 'The boy dragged his leg, and his whole body swayed from side to side.'

- (c) The teacher made a list of problems and questions in the subjects that were to be studied. The pupils were allowed to start on their own with any subject of their choice out of these. They could consult the teacher whenever they required. Then the teacher would give them exercise.

5. (a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Example:

(0) *taught*

By the time she was three, Matilda had (0) _____ (teach) herself to read by (1) _____ (study) newspapers and magazines that (2) _____ (lie) around the house. At the age of four, she could (3) _____ (read) fast and well and she naturally began (4) _____ (hanker) after books. The only

book in the whole of this enlightened household was something called Easy Cooking (5) _____ (belong) to her mother, and when she had read this from cover to cover and had (6) _____ (learn) all the recipes by heart, she (7) _____ (decide) that she (8) _____ (want) something more interesting.

(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]

- (i) It has been raining _____ two hours.
- (ii) He just scraped _____ his examination.
- (iii) Mrs. Kapoor was bent _____ attending the meeting.
- (iv) She is proud and looks _____ on her colleagues.
- (v) Rahul plays football _____ his grandfather.
- (vi) The mother was sitting _____ the sick child all night.
- (vii) Monica is leaning _____ the wall.
- (viii) Rosie is very good _____ art and craft.

(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence *without using and, but or so*: [4]

- (i) Sarah and Tyra are twins. They look exactly alike.
- (ii) Rohan does not like to play cricket. He does not like to play hockey either.
- (iii) Sania pushed as hard as she could. The door would not open.
- (iv) The school bus drove through the gate. The clock was striking eight at that moment.

(d) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [8]

- (i) The librarian orders books for the school library every year.
(Begin: Books...)
- (ii) No one will deny that the children have worked very hard this year.
(Begin; Everyone...)
- (iii) As soon as the teacher enters, she is greeted by her students.
(Begin: No sooner...)
- (iv) She is so busy that she finds no time to entertain her friends.
(Rewrite using 'too')

(v) In spite of the very hot weather, Kevin stepped out to buy some bread.

(Begin: Despite....)

(vi) Sheela will be selected for the competition only if she goes for the auditions.

(Begin: Unless....)

(vii) I would rather eat fruit than a lot of unhealthy junk food.

(Begin: I prefer....)

(viii) The tree was cut down ruthlessly.

(Begin: They...)

Ans. (a) (0) taught (1) studying (2) lay (3) read (4) hankering (5) belonging (6) learnt (7) decided (8) wanted.

(b) (i) for (ii) through (iii) upon (iv) down (v) with (vi) beside (vii) against (viii) at

(c) (i) Sara and Tyra look exactly alike, as they are twins.

(ii) Rohan likes to play neither football nor hockey.

(iii) Although Sania pushed as hard as she could, the door would not open.

(iv) The school bus drove through the gate as the clock was striking eight.

(The clock was striking eight, as the school drove through the gate.)

(d) (i) Books are ordered by the librarian, for the school library, every year.

(ii) Everyone would agree that the children have worked very hard this year.

(iii) No sooner does the teacher enter, than she is greeted by her students.

(iv) She is too busy to find time to entertain her friends.

(v) Despite the very hot weather, Kevin stepped out to buy some bread.

(vi) Unless Sheela goes for the audition, she will not be selected for the competition.

(vii) I prefer eating fruit to a lot of unhealthy junk food.

(viii) They cut the tree down, ruthlessly.

