

ICSE Solved Paper 2023

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 30 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]

- (i) Write an original short story in which two children and their school teacher are the main characters.
- (ii) Imagine a situation where you get an opportunity to change one thing in your school. What would it be? Why do you want to change it? How would you bring about the change?
- (iii) 'School examinations do not test intelligence.' Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) You are a regular visitor to your school library. Describe your library. Give details of the familiar sights. What do you see and feel as different students come in and check out the books? Why is this place so important?
- (v) 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. (i) Once a teacher entered the class and showed a paper to the students. Two friends Emma and Jacob found it mysterious. The teacher said that a question has been written on this paper, on which they have to write an essay. The students noticed that there were no questions on that paper, only a black dot in the middle of it.

The students asked the teacher - Sir, this paper is completely white and there is only one black

dot in it, there is no question on it. The teacher said, "This black dot is your question, and write an essay on it." Hearing this, all the students got busy with their work.

After a while, all the students submit their answer book to the teacher. The teacher noticed that almost the same thing was written differently in all the essays, that there is a black dot in the middle of the paper. All the students wrote their essays only about this dot, which is a small point of this paper. Now the teacher said, all of you students have written only about the black dot which has taken up a little space on this paper and you have not written anything about the rest of the white part of this paper.

This is what happens with our life, we ignore the happiness, peace, love, success, harmony, and brotherhood around us and focus our attention on those little troubles whose place we have in life as much as the black dot on this white paper. Instead of enjoying what God has given us, we are worried about the small shortcomings which we could not get. This is because our minds and our way of thinking are negative. That is why we should enjoy every color of our life that God has given us because it will have a direct effect on our thinking and understanding. Hearing the words of the teacher, the eyes of the students gleamed, as they had gotten a new way of looking at life. Gautam Buddha had said that to allow negativity in oneself means to drink poison and expect someone else to die. If we can bring the words of Buddha within us, then our life will blossom with positivity, no doubt about it.

- (ii) "If I could change something about our schools, it would be how we teach everything as individual subjects. Real life doesn't happen in boxes; it's math, reading, history, science, and emotion all thrown together in a beautiful, chaotic mess. Many students don't realize the

crossover between subjects, and this makes it harder for them to see how important it all is.”

“If I could change something about our schools, it would be the structure of the day to allow more flexibility for all. Students who want to start late could. Staffing would be flexible too! Classes could also be flexible, with some delivered by other means along with traditional classroom instruction.”

“If I could change one thing about our schools, it would be to transform all schools into caring communities that use project-based experiential learning through play where the focus is less on results and more on the process. Instead of zero-tolerance policies, we would have tolerance policies where it is okay to make mistakes. Schools would be centered on taking care of ourselves, each other, and our environment driven by care, not data. I believe all children should have the right to love and the freedom to explore unrestrained.”

To overcome these challenges and improve the quality of education, schools can evaluate the following factors:

- (a) Maintained infrastructure.
- (b) Pedagogy skills.
- (c) Quality of teachers.
- (d) Extra-curricular activities.
- (e) Proper implementation of a government initiative.
- (f) Assessment and evaluation tools.
- (g) Community building.

(iii) School Examination do not Test Intelligence

For: I strongly agree with this statement as examinations test children’s ability to mug up information. Intelligence is the creativity and unique way of every individual’s mind. Coursework is a much more genuine assessment of a candidate because it takes into account research, understanding of the issues and ability to express oneself, not just ability to answer a question in a very limited period of time. Coursework is valuable but should be used in conjunction with exams. Everything coming in the examination cannot be covered in the classroom and the questions that are asked in the examinations can vary from that of the course given, it can have a varied style, solemn other angle and the result can be different for each query asked to resolve.

A student may possess required information to solved the query but it is not always accomplished that the answer he applies with his knowledge be true and correct to let him gain the desired marking. Honestly, I think this is a very good system, each

subject should have a balance of presentations and exams. But I should also add this, that there should also be an option for students who are dissatisfied with their results to present their understanding of their subject once again to see whether they actually understood the concepts but didn’t do well because of the system. No system is perfect, which is why I feel this is a good idea.

Against: Guidelines are neither clear nor measurable. Students are duped into believing their innate abilities and potential are being tested whilst they are largely being tested on test-taking ability, confidence and pushiness. What this system encourages is practicing past papers in the hopes of mastering tests and not the subject. Tests do not encourage the pursuit of knowledge so much as the pursuit of great grades. Education should free the mind, not restrict it to guidelines that are NOT transparent (As the pandemic of misunderstood Andagogy (opposite of pedagogy) keeps teachers from spoon-feeding or spelling things out).Intellectual exploration is impeded with constant pulls towards mastering guess work and memorising ‘standard’ methods of answering ‘repeated types’ of questions that were originally set to test a student’s response to unfamiliar problems. Subjective/qualitative papers with essay questions are not as easy to measure as mathematics or other quantitative papers. There are times when different examiners grade the same paper by the same student/pupil very differently. Marks on tests are frequently altered on students’ coercion or a teacher/examiner’s admittance of human error on his/her part. Pushier/convincing students can push examiners/tutors into raising their grades and exercise this talent frequently. Tests simply require students to cram when studying, and after the test is taken, the information studied is almost immediately forgotten, so the purpose of the test in the first place is gone.

- (iv) A school library is a structure within the school that houses a collection of books, audio-visual material and other content that serves common use to meet the educational, informative and recreational needs of the users. The chief objective of libraries is to meet the academic needs of the particular educational institution it serves. Besides serving students in their studies and teachers in their research school, libraries aim at creating interest in reading amongst the students who get the best of resources and environment here. The types of books we can have access to in school libraries are fiction books, non-fiction books, reference books, literature books, biographies, general knowledge books, Fables and folktales, cookbooks and craft books, poetry

books, books in a series, and wordless books. It provides us with quality fiction and nonfiction books that encourage us to read more for pleasure and enrich our intellectual, artistic, cultural, social and emotional growth. The ambiance of the school library is perfect for learning without getting disturbed.

This makes it easy for us to learn and grasp faster. It provides teachers the access to professional development, relevant information and reference material to plan and implement effective learning programs. Thus, school library is helpful to every member of the school community whether its students, teachers or any other staff member. It helps gain skills

- (v) "Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made." The bond between owner and pet is like no other—they're our companions, always along for the ride no matter what ups and downs life brings. They show us joy and make us laugh, and even listen to us like they know exactly what we're saying. How can you help a street dog? If you are able to adopt a street dog/shelter dog, go ahead and do it! You will save a life by doing so. But, if your conditions are not so fine to keep a dog in your house, you can always help street dog(s) by tips and tricks given below:

Feed the doggies daily for once or twice a day. Keep in mind to not give spices or unsafe food to your furry friends! In winters, provide them your old clothes and blankets to keep them warm. In summers, give them cold water to drink and make them sit in a shady place. During rains, keep them inside your house or any safe place to stay for a while. Get them vaccinated by your nearby government veterinary clinic. Provide them a permanent place to sit and sleep. Get them spayed/neutered after consulting a vet. Donate to charities working for street dogs and animals. Donate old toys to street dogs. Use your social media to spread awareness. You will start to fall in love with yourself for helping and saving the lives of these voiceless creatures of the universe. When you give to someone, you actually give yourself respect, love and blessings. In my journey with my dog, I realised how he is the best decision I ever made in my life! I feel so loved and have started to love myself ever since I got him. I also look after street dogs in my area and trust me, it feels so good!

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

Select any one of the following: [10]

- (i) You have had to shift to a new house recently. Write a letter to your grandmother telling her

what you miss about your old house. Tell her also what you like about your new house and what you plan to do to make it comfortable for yourself.

- (ii) A certain book / chapter has been included in your syllabus. You have heard that a film version is now available. Write a letter to the Manager of a film theatre near your school, requesting that the film be shown. Tell him / her why it will be beneficial to the students.

Ans. (i) 224, Raja Garden,
New Delhi.

October 8, 2022

My loving Grandma,

You will be happy to know that we have purchased a new house in a posh colony of Delhi. It is in Raja Garden. The place is extremely calm, quiet and serene. There is no din or noise. The roads are quite wide and spacious. The house itself is situated on a nice plot of land. It is a corner plot and opens on three sides.

It is a double-storey house. There are three rooms in the front portion and three in the rear of the house. It is all airy and well-ventilated. The full house has marble floorings. The pride of the house is its drawing room, and kitchen. The drawing room is a big hall and we have tried to decorate it fully but it needs many more things to add to its beauty.

Everything seems to be just perfect but I and mumma still tend to miss our old house. There is a gush of emotions that fill us when we recall our good old days at that old house. It was serene and peaceful too. Will take time to adjust here and get ourselves into the best comfort that we have had there for years.

We are happy to have some good neighbours also. One Mr. H.L. Malik is on our right. He is an Electrical Engineer and a very nice person. We enjoy his jolly company almost every evening. There then is Mr. Khera. He is a teacher in a college. He is a young energetic teacher with a full command on his subject. I hope to be benefited well by his guidance.

Now I invite you to have a visit to our new house and be with us so that we can make new memories here. I hope you will soon plan to come.

Yours sincerely,

Ashok

- (ii) 5, York House,
Peddar Road,
Mumbai.

5th October, 2022

Subject: A request to show a film which will benefit the students.

Sir,

This year William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies' has been prescribed as a rapid reader for S.S.C. students who have taken Higher Level English. I understand that there is a film based on this novel. Many of us would like to see the film so that we may understand the book better.

I request you to show the film in your theatre as early as possible. I assure you that the majority of the students in Mumbai schools studying English at a higher level will not miss the opportunity of seeing the film.

It would be appreciable if you take the request into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Jaydeep.

3. (i) **Write a notice to be put up in your school informing the pupils of Classes IX and X about the Remedial Classes to be held after the school hours and asking them to register their names for it.** [5]
- (ii) **Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school inviting their pupils to attend the classes if they so wish. Give all details of the classes to be held.** [5]

Ans. (i)

REMEDIAL CLASSES

Extra Classes for Students of classes IX-X

from 20th July, 2023

from 1:00 pm. to 2:00 pm.

in Respective Classes

Students of classes IX-X who scored less than 60% in the first terminal examination have to attend the Remedial Classes. They will benefit you at maximum. Please register your names with your class teacher.

- (ii) To @principalsrd.com

Dear Sir / Madam,

We would like to invite you and the students of your esteemed college to the Internship classes, on 17/9/22 from 11:00 am to 12:00 Noon. It would be an opportunity for all students to become familiar with each others institute. We at LACS School System lay great stress upon the involvement of each student in internship during this period in the areas where they realize their social responsibility.

We would really appreciate your presence at the classes.

Looking forward.

Shreya.

For more details you can mail us at: @shreyagyrc.com.

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

That huge bell never stopped ringing. It got us out of bed, it *summoned* us for meals, it rang between class periods, it sent us unwillingly to bed.

One morning it failed to ring, or rather, there was no bell to ring. Someone had removed it, and it wasn't found till late in the afternoon.

What a glorious day! As there was no bell to rouse us, everyone got up late, and there was no morning PT. Some of us missed breakfast too. The teachers got confused and mixed up their classes. How could the school manage without it? Confusion reigned.

Of course, no one owned up. It could have meant expulsion. Some suspicion fell on the Sports Captain because of our *aversion* to morning PT, but nothing could be proved.

No one was very anxious to find the bell - we were quite happy without it - but it was finally discovered hanging from a branch of one of the trees.

'It may have been Mr. Sharma,' surmised Brian. Mr. Sharma, our Maths teacher, was known to walk in his sleep. And sleepwalkers did funny things sometimes. "It could be Mool Chand himself," suggested Cyrus Satralkar.

Mool Chand was the school chowkidar, who also had the job of banging the brass bell at appointed times.

"Why would he throw it away?"

"He must be as fed up with ringing it as we are of hearing it." This was my theory. "Perhaps he wants a rise in salary."

The identity of the culprit remained a mystery. Happily, the senior Hockey team went on a winning spree against all corners, and our month-end exits were *restored*.

But soon there was another sensation.

A girl was admitted to our class!

The boys were scandalized. No girl had ever studied in our school before. We protested.

"What's the problem?" asked Mr. Knight, our class master. 'Haven't you seen a girl before?'

"But - but. Sir..." Tata was our spokesman. "How will we concentrate on our studies?"

"When did you ever concentrate on your studies, Tata?"

"Are we going co-ed, sir?" Adams wanted to know.

"Not at all," said Mr. Knight. "This is a special case. She is the school accounts manager's daughter, and he can't afford the Girls school fees. So, I'm sure you'll make her feel very welcome."

The accountant was a popular man who also ran the school's tuck shop and allowed most of us a certain amount of credit. All our objections faded away.

At first, Sunita, our new entrant, was a bit of a distraction because, although she was very shy and demure, she had lovely curly hair, bright eyes,

pink cheeks and a smile for everyone. All the boys were very polite and attentive to her and Brian in particular was always ready to help her. —
Collection of Stories, Ruskin Bond

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [3]

1. summoned (line 1)

(a) totalled	(b) ordered
(c) requested	(d) shout
2. aversion (line 10)

(a) hatred	(b) fear
(c) politeness	(d) creation
3. restored (line 25)

(a) helped	(b) returned
(c) permit	(d) victory

(ii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

- (a) Why did no one confess to having removed the missing bell? [1]
- (b) Why did suspicion fall on the Sports Captain? [2]
- (c) What made Brian think that it was Mr. Sharma? [2]
- (d) Which sentence in the passage tells you that Mr. Knight thought poorly of Tata's academic performance? [2]
- (e) Why was the accountant a popular man? [2]

(iii) In not more than 50 words describe the effects of the lost bell. [8]

Ans. (i) (b) ordered.

- (a) Hatred
(b) returned

- (ii) (a) No one confessed to having removed the bell because they could be expelled for this reason.
(b) The suspicion fell on the sports captain because of his hatred for morning PT.
(c) Mr. Sharma had a habit of walking in sleep so he was suspected to have removed the bell.
(d) The teacher said 'When did you ever concentrate on your studies Tata?' which depicts that Mr Knight thought poorly of Tata's academic performance.
(e) The accountant also ran the school's tuck shop and allowed most of the students a certain amount of credit so he was popular among them.

(iii) A lost bell effect is a ceremony or ritual of the passage which occurs when an individual leaves one group to enter another. It involves a significant change of status in society.

In cultural anthropology the term is the Aglicisation of *rite de passage*, a French term innovated by the ethnographer Arnold Van Gennep in his work *Les*

rites passage. The Rites of the term is now fully adopted into anthropology as well as into the literature and popular cultures of many modern languages.

5. (i) 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) One night four college students _____ (be) out partying late and did not study for the test scheduled for the next day.

Answer: were

In the morning, they (1) _____ (think) of a plan. They (2) _____ (make) themselves look dirty with grease and dirt. Then they (3) _____ (go) to the Dean and (4) _____ (say) they (5) _____ (go) out to a wedding last night and on their way back the tyre of their car burst and they had to push the car all the way back.

The Dean thought for a minute and said that they could have the re-test after three days. They (6) _____ (thank) him and said they would be ready.

On the day of the test, they were made to sit in separate rooms. They agreed as they (7) _____ (prepare) well. But they (8) _____ (get) a rude shock!

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

- (a) A bird _____ hand is worth two in the bush.
- (b) The boy is crazy _____ football.
- (c) She was tired _____ fighting and struggling all the time.
- (d) He opted _____ of the race.
- (e) We borrowed the bikes _____ our uncle.
- (f) The police station is _____ the right.
- (g) I looked at the stars _____ the telescope.
- (h) There was an accident _____ the crossroads.

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option. [4]

1. He jumped up. He ran away.
 - (a) He jumped up before he ran away.
 - (b) Jumping up, he ran away.
 - (c) He ran away after jumping.
 - (d) He ran away because he jumped up.
2. He has failed many times. Still, he hopes to succeed.

- (a) He succeeds after he failed many times.
 (b) Despite of failing, he hopes to succeed.
 (c) In spite of many failures, he hopes to succeed.
 (d) He failed many times even though he hopes to succeed.
3. **Do not be a jeweller. Do not be a goldsmith.**
 (a) Be neither a jeweller nor a goldsmith.
 (b) Be both a jeweller and a goldsmith.
 (c) Either be a jeweller or a goldsmith.
 (d) Be a jeweller as well as a goldsmith.
4. **A cottager and his wife had a hen. The hen laid an egg every day.**
 (a) Everyday, a hen laid an egg for a cottager and his wife,
 (b) A cottager and his wife had a hen who laid an egg every day.
 (c) The cottager and his wife had an egg every day because they had a hen.
 (d) A cottager and his wife had a hen which laid an egg every day.
- (iv) **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. Choose the correct options.** [8]
1. **He said to me, "I don't believe you."**
 (Begin: He said.....)
 (a) He said he doesn't want to believe in me.
 (b) He said that he didn't believe me.
 (c) He said that he didn't believe in me.
 (d) He said I don't believe you.
2. **Some boys were helping the wounded man.**
 (Begin: The wounded.....)
 (a) The wounded man was helping some boys.
 (b) The wounded man were helping some boys.
 (c) The wounded man was being helped by some boys.
 (d) The wounded boys were helping the man.
3. **He is as wise as Solomon.**
 (Use: 'wiser')
 (a) Solomon was wiser than he is.
 (b) He and Solomon are wiser.
 (c) Solomon was the wisest.
 (d) Solomon was not wiser than he is.
4. **If the boys do not reach the school on time, they will be punished.**
 (Begin: Unless.....)
- (a) Unless the boys reach the school on time, they will not be punished.
 (b) Unless the boys are punished, they will not reach the school on time.
 (c) Unless the school punished the boys, they will not reach on time.
 (d) Unless the boys reach the school on time, they will be punished.
5. **As soon as he reaches home, his friends call him. (Begin: Hardly.....)**
 (a) Hardly does he reach home when his friends call him.
 (b) Hardly had he reached home than his friends called him.
 (c) Hardly, he reaches home, his friends call him.
 (d) Hardly when he reaches home than his friends call him.
6. **She is weak, but she is courageous.**
 (Begin: Despite.....)
 (a) Despite of being weak she is courageous.
 (b) Despite being weak, she is courageous.
 (c) Despite being courageous, she is not weak.
 (d) Despite weak, she is courageous.
7. **We will never forget what we saw.**
 (Begin: Never.....)
 (a) Never forget what we see.
 (b) Never will we forget what we had seen.
 (c) Never will we see what we forget.
 (d) Never will we forget what we saw.
8. **Jaswant's grandfather is too old to take up this job.**
 (Use:so..... that...)
 (a) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he could not take up this job.
 (b) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he cannot take up this job.
 (c) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he could take up this job.
 (d) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he can take up this job.
- Ans. (i)** (1) Thought
 (2) made
 (3) went
 (4) said
 (5) had gone
 (6) thanked
 (7) had prepared
 (8) got
- (ii)** Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.
 (a) in

- (b) for
- (c) of
- (d) out
- (e) from
- (f) on
- (g) through
- (h) at

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but, or so. Choose the correct option.

1. (c) He ran away after jumping.
 2. (c) In spite of many failures, he hopes to succeed
 3. (a) Be neither a jeweller nor a goldsmith
 4. (d) A cottager and his wife had a hen which laid an egg everyday.
- (iv)
1. (b) He said that he didn't believe me.
 2. (c) The wounded man was being helped by some boys.
 3. (b) He and Soloman are wiser.
 4. (d) Unless the boys reached the school on time, they will be punished.
 5. (a) Hardly does he reach home when his friends call him.
 6. (b) Despite being weak, she is courageous.
 7. (b) Never will we forget what we had seen.
 8. (b) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he cannot take up this job.

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