

# ISC Solved Paper 2022 Semester -2

## English Paper - 1 (Language)

### Class-XII

(Maximum Marks : 40)

(Time allowed : One and a half hours)

(Candidates are allowed **additional 10 minutes** for **only** reading the paper.  
They must **NOT** start writing during this time).

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

1. Write a composition in approximately 350 – 400 words on any one of the following subjects: [20]

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of matter, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation, and grammar.)

- (i) Write about a day when you were returning home from school and the weather suddenly changed for the better. Describe the sights, sounds and smells that captivated your senses. How did the change in weather affect your state of mind?
- (ii) Narrate an incident from your life when you experienced an unexpected act of kindness and what it made you realize.
- (iii) Technology has adversely affected human creativity.  
Argue **FOR** or **AGAINST** this statement.
- (iv) Mystery
- (v) Life has no limitations except the ones we create. Give your views on this statement.
- (vi) Write an original short story titled 'An Interesting Interview'.

Ans. (i) **A WALK TO REMEMBER**

I looked up at the sky and the summer sun in all its fury shone down on me. I wiped the sweat from my brow and walked out into the street and began my journey home. I hadn't taken a few steps when I felt the sky go dark and looked up to find the sun hidden behind a big grey cloud. Oh what a blessing I thought to myself. At least it wouldn't be so hot. I increased my pace and decided to take advantage of the cloud cover to make my way home. I barely took a few steps and there was the sudden rumble of thunder. Thunder in the middle of summer, I wondered to myself.

But it was a welcome change. The cloud cover had gotten darker and the sky seemed to have taken on a darker grey and menacing colour. It certainly looked like rain.

I barely turned the corner at Kibb's restaurant and I felt the first few drops of rain fall on me. I looked up at the sky and wondered how long before that turned into a downpour. All around me, people were doing the same; looking at the sky and scurrying around in a tizzy. A lady with her two kids who went to the same school as I did was telling them to hurry if they didn't want to get drenched. The kids looked at each other and laughed. Suddenly, I heard the sound of vehicle horns as people rushed to avoid the rain. I didn't know it then, but the weatherman had warned of an impending storm. Cars and bikes scurried along and the otherwise quiet street suddenly came to life with traffic. As I arrived in front of the supermarket, I saw workers leaving and shutters coming down. I began to wonder what was wrong. Liz's Café has closed already, the Chinese restaurant was shutting shop as I passed by and old uncle Wang was hurrying them along. As I passed by he said, "Hurry up get home. There is a storm coming." It was then that I knew. Another rumble of thunder and the wind began to blow with tenacity. I walked on.

The traffic police were out in full force encouraging everyone to shut shop and get off the streets. They were in a vehicle with a loudspeaker and were warning people to get off the street. Apparently, this was serious. I quickened my pace and walked on. I passed the lady with the two reluctant kids and watched as she continued to tell them to hurry to no avail. Just then a signboard was caught up in a gust of wind and before our very eyes it seemed to grow wings and take flight, only to crash into the store front of a clothing store. The alarm went off and the police arrived soon enough. That seemed to send a message to the kids and they no longer troubled their mother.

Another two minutes and I arrived at the gate to my building society. The guard looked at me over and hurried me in. I could feel the rain pelting down on me and though I would have loved to have gotten drenched, the storm made everything scary and I ran the last 200 meters or so till I reached the safety of my home.

(ii) **THE ART OF GIVING**

Manideepa didn't have much. She was widowed, poor and lived in a ramshackle little house at the end of the street. Her husband had died years ago leaving her almost penniless save for the meager pension that he left her and the goodwill of her friends and family. The neighbours complained that the derelict condition of her home was the reason the value of their properties diminished and some of them cursed her aloud. Nobody said much to her and she lived in seclusion and ghost like silence.

In the summer of 2021, we were hit by Covid. My parents, my younger brother, and I all got it almost together. Of the lot of us, I was the least affected and I tried my best to manage to do what I can for the home. My parents were both hospitalized leaving my brother aged 12 and me alone at home to fend for ourselves. We were on our own and due to the fact that it was covid, there were no friendly neighbours to check in on us and help us with food and other supplies. I worried that we were going to run out of food and I struggled to cook meals for my brother and myself with the fever and the weakness that had afflicted us both. Because we weren't critical, we were not eligible for a hospital bed and were refused admission into hospital.

I stressed over the fact that I would have to continue to manage the home and care for us both and I didn't know how much longer I could do it. I woke up that morning about to give up and I was contemplating calling a relative who lived in another city to vent when I heard the doorbell ring. Who would come visiting during covid I wondered? I rushed to open the door and there was Manideepa, masked and covered with a cloth bag in hand. She handed me the bag and informed me that she had only just come to hear of our plight and would provide us with three meals a day till our parents were back home and everything was back to normal. I was so grateful I cried and thanked her. Later when I opened the 'dabbas', the aroma of the food filled the home. We ate hungrily and secretly wished there was more.

Over the next two weeks, Manideepa cooked us the most delicious food I have ever eaten. From everyday fare to pizzas, burgers,

complicated desserts and more, she seemed to know it all. She would come over, ring the bell and wait for us to open the door. Then she would sit on the stairs, a few feet away and ask how we are doing, if there was anything in particular we would like to eat and chat about the news and other things. She never left without reassuring us that our parents would be fine and would be home soon. It was then that I realized the importance of that human contact. When everyone else was afraid to open up their doors or even pick up the phone to ask how we were doing, Manideepa cooked us meals, walked down the street to deliver them braving the odds and unafraid, took the time to ask after our health and have a conversation with us. Her kindness touched me deeply.

(iii) **THE BANE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**For the statement**

Technology has adversely affected human creativity. In today's world, we rely on technology for almost everything. Our lives have become so dependent upon technology and we cannot survive without it. Technology is a bane to the human race. Despite all our advancements in technology, we have lost out on a lot due to this very same technology.

As a race, we humans have become colder, less caring, and less humane. We have time for social media but no time for each other. We have less time to create and more time to copy paste. Our creativity as human beings lies at the risk of diminishing to a great extent. Today people think nothing of stealing ideas and concepts such as brand logos, business concepts, strategies, written and video content and so much more without taking the trouble to come up with our own. Why, because we want the quick and easy way out. Log on to Facebook and you will find content creators with similar videos and scripts. Someone has definitely copied someone. It is sad that we humans resort to stealing from others simply because it is out there and easily available.

When it comes to students and exams, there is no dearth of websites that allow you to copy material from and there are even paid services online that will write your essays, do your assignments and create your science models for a price. Today parents of school going children can go into a stationery store and tell them the name of the child's school, the class and they immediately know what the child requires in terms of projects, charts and assignments; everything can be bought and submitted to the school with the name of the child on it. This is not only taking away the child's creativity but is extremely dishonest as well.

By encouraging the present generation to rely on others for creative ideas, we are encouraging them to be lazy and not to use their own brain. We have been given a brain for a purpose. We must put it to use and make the best of it like the inventors of the past and the present. If they had not invented the telephone, the wheel, the mobile phone, the internet, open heart surgery and so many other wonderful things that we enjoy today.

#### **Against the statement**

Respected Principal, honourable judges and my dear friends, today I am here to present my views against the motion that technology has adversely affected human creativity.

We cannot without technology in today's scenario. Technology has made our lives much easier. Some may say that technology has adversely affected human creativity but in reality, technology was created through human creativity. It requires human skills to be able to utilise technology. Technology and creativity go hand in hand and result in better outcomes. Technology enhances creativity. It is through that creative people and their ideas are able to come closer together. Technology has improved communication and removed the barrier of distance to a great extent. It allows people to connect their ideas and share their creativity. People can share their ideas with a click of the mouse.

Hence, technology nurtures creativity.

Technology helps people to gain knowledge about creative ways of doing a work. If used properly, we can work can perform our work with more efficacy and efficiency and in less time with the aid of technology. Technology has expanded the boundaries of creativity.

Technological innovations need creative thought to continue rising. Human creativity allows the development of technology and expansion of its reach. There is no proof that technology hinders human creativity. Technology has modified our lifestyle our totally. It has made life more comfortable. It has been a boon to the society and human creativity. The amount of knowledge one can acquire by the use of technology is immense and it helps in increasing human skills. Hence, technology has not affected human creativity adversely.

#### **(iv) THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING BANANAS**

Laila walked into the kitchen and noticed the bunch of bananas she had bought earlier that morning was missing again. "That was fast", she said aloud. "The kids have eaten them all." Funny how that had happened since none of the kids liked bananas very much except her youngest Younis. He couldn't have eaten a

dozen all to himself. She was sure the others had eaten some of it too.

That evening at the store, she picked up another bunch of bananas, some oranges, apples and a melon. When she was home, she placed the melon in the fridge and put the bananas, oranges and apples in a bowl on the kitchen counter. She knew the kids would come in and take what they wanted.

By early next morning, the bowl was empty. She watched from the open kitchen window as the children played outside. It was spring break and they were busy building forts in the backyard and playing in the tree house. She decided to go out there and ask them if they had eaten the fruit. They said they hadn't eaten any. She told them about the empty fruit bowl and they all shook their heads and shrugged their shoulders. They had no idea where it had all gone. Then Miriam said, "We haven't eaten fruit in a few days now Mama, because there is never any fruit in the bowl."

"What nonsense!" said their mother. "I have been buying fruit and putting it in the bowl almost every day. Only last evening I bought oranges, apples and bananas."

The children looked at her in amazement. They certainly hadn't seen the fruit. And then Younis said something about his friends taking all the fruit. He was three and sometimes he imagined things. Laila and the other kids didn't pay much attention to him especially since they knew he did not have any fruit eating friends that visited the day before. And so they made a plan. They decided to hide and watch who was eating the fruit.

That evening they hid behind the sofa and watched as the evening wore on. Just before sunset, when it was cooler, they had a visitor; a monkey jumped into the kitchen and picked up the bunch of bananas. Soon a pack of them emerged to help him and before long all the fruit was gone. Younis waved to them and said, "Bye Bye friend" and they all laughed at what had just occurred.

#### **(v) NO LIMITATIONS**

Life has no limitations, except the ones we create. This is so true and we should bear this in mind always. Today, we have so many opportunities to take advantage of. All we have to do is apply ourselves and make the effort to do it.

Society has a way of telling us what we can and cannot do. It has a way of letting us know that there are some things that are not meant for us just because they are unconventional and have never been done before. And then there is the gender aspect; the thing that certain things are not meant for women. In a world where we are advocating for women's

rights and equality, society draws us back by dictating what is acceptable and what is not.

We allow society and people around us to place limitations upon us for various reasons. Sometimes it is religion, tradition and culture and at other times it is just the whims and fancies or the beliefs of others. A girl must not go out after dark. A woman should not run a business or join the armed forces and go into active combat. A man should earn more than his wife and should not be a stay at home dad. These decisions are all made by society and what is the basis of these decisions? Sometimes there is no logic behind all of these choices people make for us.

Letting someone take control of your life to such an extent is something we should think about long and hard. Whether they are our parents, friends, relatives or society, we should be able to have control of our own lives and make our own choices based on what we think is best for us in the long run.

(vi) **AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW**

Mary Fernandes was 56. She was a widow and had been a housewife almost her adult life. Prior to that, she had been a teacher in St. Mary's Convent where she taught English and Social Studies to middle school children. And then when she was 54, she lost her husband in an accident.

Two years later, Mary was fed up of dealing with the insurance company people on the phone who called repeatedly and asked the same questions. She was alone since her in-laws were long gone. She needed something to do with her time. And so she thought about getting a job. She couldn't go back to teaching she decided. An ad popped up on her Facebook page one day and she accidentally clicked on it. Mary didn't think much of it but was surprised to receive a call from them a few days later. A very well spoken gentleman at the other end of the line introduced himself as Naveen Karmakar and asked her to come down to the office to meet with him. Mary apologised and explained she had clicked on it by mistake. "That's a pity", he said. It would have been so good to meet you. "Please think about it at least." Mary agreed and with that he hung up.

Two days later, after she had been thinking about her telephone conversation with the young man, Mary decided she would go. He sounded so warm and kind. She arrived at the office and asked to see him. The young receptionist smiled and led her to his office. "Ah, good afternoon, Mrs. Fernandes. I have been waiting for you. Please come in and have a seat." Mary looked around the posh office and was immediately nervous. She wished she hadn't come. He buzzed and an office boy emerged. "Two cold coffees with vanilla

ice cream, please, Manoj." he said. Mary was about to protest but before she could speak, he said, "Coffee with ice cream solves everything. Don't worry."

They waited till the cold coffee arrived and then he asked her, "So Mrs. Fernandes, are you ready to begin?"

"Begin what?" asked Mary.

"Work of course, isn't that why you are here?"

"This is a mistake.", she said haltingly. "I think I should leave."

"Nonsense", said the young man. "You are perfect for the job. Don't you remember me, Mrs. Fernandes?"

Mary looked confused. I am the young man from the insurance company you spoke with two years ago after your husband's death. I remember how anguished you were and how you said talking to the people in the company was almost like talking to robots with no feelings whatsoever. Well, I have to agree with you. After that conversation, I left the company and wanted to be more than a robot. Today I have my own business with over 50 employees. I see that you have been a teacher before and I want you to train my staff to be more than robots. Teach them to be sympathetic to the customer, to be kind, to be good listeners and to be human. Can you do that?

Overcome with emotion, Mary nodded.

"Good, that's settled then. I shall expect you at 9:00 am tomorrow morning. Welcome aboard. And while we are at it, let me show you your new office".

Mary smiled. She hadn't been this happy in a long time.

2. (i) **Your school organised an adult literacy camp recently. Write a report for your school magazine in 200-250 words, using the following points:** [12]

**Location of the camp - people who participated - timing and duration - volunteers from your school - lessons taught - materials used - feedback from the participants - experience of the volunteers.**

- (ii) **As the Head of the Science Club of your school, you intend to conduct an interclass competition, in which students will present creative experiments. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, stating the steps you will take to make this competition a success.** [8]

**Ans. (i)** On March 30th, Heritage International School organized an adult literacy camp for the benefit of the school workers and their families and the people of the nearby villages. The camp was held in the school grounds and

the senior academic wing was used as well to coach smaller and more advanced groups. The camp ran for two weeks with classes commencing at 9:00 am every morning and ending at 4:00 pm each day. Saturdays were devoted to presentations and extra-curricular activities including personality development classes and training for how to apply for jobs. The student council and the grade XII students participated in organizing the camp and volunteered to teach the classes and conduct the personality development sessions. An expert social worker from the organization Goonj was invited to be the keynote speaker and instill the importance of being literate among the participants.

It was interesting to note that most of the participants were housewives. Through presentations, talks, discussions, video and audio material, participants were educated on the basics of learning; the letters of the alphabet, framing simple sentences and numbers. The camp was a great success and at the end of it, the feedback was great. Most of the participants wanted a refresher course in the coming months.

(ii) **PROPOSAL FOR SETTING  
UP A SCIENCE CLUB**

**Proposal for conducting interclass competition**

**Introduction:** I propose to conduct an inter-class competition in which students will present creative experiments.

**Statement of objective:** The of students will get an opportunity to showcase their scientific and skills. It will also increase students' knowledge of science.

**List of measures:**

- The competition will be held on 20 September 2023 from 10 am to 12 pm.
- It may be organised in the auditorium where arrangements will be made.
- Interested participants will submit their names to the members of science club.
- Ms. Agarwal and Mr. Gautam will be the judges of the competition.

I hope that the proposal will be accepted so that the competition can be organised for the benefit of the students.

XYZ

Head, Science Club

