

I PRE - BOARD EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH PAPER - 1

(Maximum Marks: 80)

(Three hours)

(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.

They must NOT start writing during this time)

Attempt all Four Questions.

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

(You are advised to spend not 50 minutes on Question 1, 40 minutes on Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and 1 hour on Question 4.

Question 1

Write a composition (in approximately 400- 450 words) on any ONE of the following topics. [20]

- a. You and your classmates had organised a farewell party for the students of Class XII. Give an account of the party and the thoughts you had which you were parting from your seniors.
- b. Name a newspaper or magazine you often read. Describe its features, explain what attracts your attention and state how it can be made more attractive.
- c. The present working hours in the Government Offices should be increased by an hour for better productivity. Write for or against the statement.
- d. Compassion
- e. Expectation is a gift, not a burden. Express your views on the statement.
- f. Write an original story based on the following quote:
'In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity'.

This paper consists of 6 printed pages.

Question 2

- a. You have been asked to write a book review for a leading newspaper. Base your reviews on the hints given below. Name of the book- price- cover- publishers- name of the author - his other books- the language used - pace - style - presentation - a brief outline of the contents - plot - climax - the main characters - their impact on the reader - the age group to which it will appeal - overall impression. [15]
- b. As the head of the NCC wing of your school. You have been assigned the task of organising a camp fire in the school premises on the eve of Republic Day. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, stating the steps you would take to organise this camp fire. [10]

Question 3

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c)

- a. In each of the following items, Sentence A is complete, while Sentence B is not. Complete Sentence B, making it as similar as possible to Sentence A. Write Sentence B in each case. [5]
- A. Is there any information on the label about the ingredients?
B. Does
 - A. He will do the work, only under compulsion.
B. He will not do the work.....
 - A. Mamta apologised, but her friend still refused to speak to her.
B. In spite of
 - A. "Meghna, I was going to tidy the flat today, but we didn't have time," confessed Arjun.
B. Arjun confessed to Meghna

5. A. We last saw a movie in a theatre in 2008

B. Never

b. Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence) [5]

1. She always runs _____ her notes before giving the lecture.

2. The company has run _____ of the stock of products.

3. His untimely death resulted _____ over work.

4. Overwork resulted _____ his untimely death.

5. Wolves prey _____ goats and sheep.

6. The white goat fell a prey _____ a wolf.

7. The students were agitating _____ the new rules.

8. They were agitated _____ the new rules.

9. When do you set _____ for the picnic?

10. We have set _____ a new industry.

c. Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage, but write the verbs in the correct order. [5]

Thousands of animals 1 (be bring) yearly in the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, by owners who can't handle them, Others 2 (be find) abandoned on highways or in parks because the owners 3 (lose) interest in caring for them. More than neglect, it 4 (be) ignorance of the care required that 5 (cause) innocent creatures to suffer. For instance, goldfish which 6 (be keep) in a bowl suffer terribly because they 7 (be not used) to swimming round in circles. Hamsters 8 (be) happier in their natural state than on a clean mattress. Mice do not like cheese and they 9 (not be feed) it. Parents 10 (think) twice before buying pets for their children.

Question 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow.

William Shakespeare could not have chosen a more propitious moment to come of age. By the time he arrived in London (presumably) by the late 1580's, theatres dotted the outskirts and would continue to rise throughout his career. All were compelled to reside in areas mostly outside London's walls where city laws and regulations did not apply. It was a banishment they shared with prisons, gunpowder stores, graveyards, lunatic asylums and malodorous enterprises like soap making, dyeing and tanning. No one reached a play house without encountering a good deal of odour.

The new theatres did not prosper equally. Within three years of its opening, the Curtain was being used for fencing bouts, and other London playhouses relied on other entertainments, particularly animal baiting to fortify their earnings. The pastime was not unique to England, but was regarded as an English speciality. Queen Elizabeth often had visitors from abroad entrained with bear baiting at Whitehall. In its classic form, a bear was put in a ring, sometimes tethered to a *stake* and set upon by huge dogs. That an audience that could be moved to tears one day by a performance of Dr. Futstus could return the next to the same space and be just as entertained by the frantic deaths of helpless animals says much about those times.

The Puritans, a people with deeply conservative *views* detested the theatre and tended to blame every natural calamity, including a rare startling earthquake in 1580, on the playhouses. 'They considered theatres a natural haunt for shady characters, a breeding ground of infectious diseases a distraction from religious worship and a source of unhealthy excitement.

Fortunately for Shakespeare and for posterity, the Queen brushed away all attempts to limit public amusements, including on Sundays. For one thing, she liked them herself, but equally' pertinent, her government enjoyed hearty revenues from licensing bowling alleys, theatrical productions and gaming houses, even though gambling was actually illegal in London.

Plays were strictly regulated. The Master of the Revels licensed all dramatic works and made sure that companies performed in a manner that he considered respectful and orderly. Those who displeased him could in theory be jailed at his indefinite pleasure and punishments were not unknown.

In 1605, soon after the accession of James I (who was a Scot) to the throne of England, Ben Jonson and his collaborators in *Eastward Ho!* made some excellent but unwise jokes about the sudden influx of rough and underwashed Scots to the royal court. They were promptly arrested and threatened with having their ears and noses lopped off. It was because of these dangers (and the Vagrancy Act of 1572, which specifically authorised the whipping of unlicensed vagabonds) that acting troupes attached themselves to aristocratic patrons. The patron afforded the actor some measure of protection and they in turn carried his name across the land, lending him publicity and prestige. For a time patrons collected troupes of actors rather in the way rich people of a later age collected racehorses or yachts.

Plays were performed at about in the open o'clock in the afternoon. General admission for a groundling - those who stood in the open around the stage - was a penny. Those who wished to sit paid a penny more, and those who desired a *cushion* paid another penny on top of that. All this at a time when a day's wage was one shilling (12 pence) or less. The money was dropped in a box, which was taken to a special room for safekeeping - the box office.

A particular challenge for audience and performers alike must surely have been the practice of putting male players in female roles. When we consider how many powerful and expressive female roles Shakespeare created - Cleopatra, Lady Macbeth, Ophelia, Juliet, Desdemona - the actors must have been gifted performers indeed and Shakespeare must have had enormous confidence in them. Yet, while we often know a good deal about performers in male roles from Shakespeare's day we know almost nothing about the conduct of the female roles.

- i. Given below are three words. Find the words which has a similar meaning in the passage [3]
- a. strengthen b. Uncommon c. Lucrative
- ii. For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least 10 words using the same word unchanged in form but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage. [3]
- a. stake
b. views
c. cushion
- b. Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible.
- i. What disadvantages did theatres face in their location, in Shakespeare's time? [2]
- ii. Why were the Puritans opposed to theatre? [2]
- iii. Why was animal baiting presented at London playhouses? [2]
- iv. Why did the Queen encourage public amusements? [2]
- c. Using material from paragraphs 5-8 and in not more than 100 words, Write a summary on 'The Theatre in Shakespeare's Day: (Failure to keep the word limit will be penalised). [6]

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