

**II PRE BOARD EXAMINATION**  
**LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH**  
**ENGLISH PAPER: 1**

*(Three hours)*

**(M.M. : 80)**

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*(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 for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].*

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**Question 1**

**[20]**

Write a composition (in approx. 400- 450 words) on any one of the following subjects:

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

- a) 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?
- b) Narrate an incident from your life when you experienced an unexpected act of kindness and what it made you realize.
- c) Technology has adversely affected human creativity. Argue FOR or AGAINST this statement.
- d) Perseverance
- e) Life has no limitations except the ones we create. Give your views on this statement.
- f) Write an original short story entitled: 'Alone on an Island'.

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**This paper consists of 6 printed pages.**

## Question 2

- a) You are a member of your school team which participated in the National Sciences Exhibition, and presented your model on Saving Energy. Write a report (in approximately 300 words) on the exhibition. Base your report on the following points.

Date, time, place- organisers- purpose of the exhibition- various teams participating from all over the country- theme, 'Save Energy, Save the Planet' - inauguration by the Director of Education- impressed with innovative models presented by students- praises for your model- visitors showed lot of interest and fascination - a group discussion on the final day - awards to students for their innovative models - a great learning experience for all. [15]

- b) As the Head Boy/ Head Girl of your school, you have been given the responsibility of organising a Heritage Walk for the students of Classes XI and XII to Sabarmati Ashram. Write a proposal in about 150 words, stating the steps you would take to successfully organise this walk. [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 in meaning as possible to sentence A. Write sentence B in each case. [5]

- A: I will not sign the contract under any circumstances.  
B: Under no circumstances \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: As soon as the train arrives, the passengers rush into the compartments.  
B: No sooner \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: Veena wrote a regular column in The Times of India.  
B: The Times of India \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: I will take the job, so long as the salary is good.  
B: I will not take the job \_\_\_\_\_.

5. A: "Don't talk so loudly, Rakesh; you will wake up everyone in the house," he said.

B: He asked \_\_\_\_\_.

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

1. The put \_\_\_\_\_ a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose in the park.
2. He put \_\_\_\_\_ his name for the picnic.
3. My plans for starting a school fell \_\_\_\_\_ for lack of capital.
4. The two brothers fell \_\_\_\_\_ over their father's will.
5. I hope the rain holds \_\_\_\_\_ until my washing is dry.
6. A heavy rainfall held \_\_\_\_\_ the trains from Chennai.
7. The mounted police cleared \_\_\_\_\_ the crowds.
8. Children, you must clear \_\_\_\_\_ this mess before going to bed.
9. They won't let you \_\_\_\_\_ if you do not have an entry pass.
10. He let \_\_\_\_\_ the rest of the team by not turning up for the match.

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]

The athlete who is too big for her boots, quite literally, 1 (serenade) by the nation and she 2 (deserve) all the praise 3 (heap) on her. Swapna Barman, the golden girl from world sport's tough seven- eventer, the Heptathlon, is being 4 (toast) for her big achievement in Asian Games- a Gold medal on a track where very few Indians 5 (tread) and even fewer 6 (make) a mark. This Jalpaiguri girl from a humble family background 7 (spend) her childhood under the tin-shed shelter which she 8 (know) as her home. It is an inspirational story of struggle and achievement. Swapna ran the 100 meters hurdle race, high jumped, contested in the shot-put and again ran the 200 meters on Day 1 before 9 (excel) in long jump, javelin throw and the 800 meters on Day 2. All this, in shoes she had to squeeze her feet into because she has six toes on each foot and a gum infection which 10 (see) her compete with a heavily strapped jaw.

#### Question 4

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

Little Mrs. Sommers one day found herself the unexpected possessor of fifteen dollars. It seemed to her a very large amount of money, and the way in which it stuffed and bulged her worn old purse gave her a feeling of importance such as she had not enjoyed for years.

The question of investment was one that occupied her greatly. For a day or two she walked about apparently in a dreamy state, but really absorbed in speculation and calculation. She did not wish to act hastily, to do anything she might afterward regret. Her first thought went to her children and she thought of buying shoes, clothes and hats for them so that they could look fresh and dainty.

She had no intention of buying something for herself. She was an expert at finding bargains and saving money. The neighbours sometimes talked of certain "better days" that little Mrs. Sommers had known before she had ever thought of being Mrs. Sommers. She herself indulged in no such morbid retrospection. The needs of the present absorbed her every faculty.

She went for shopping. In a shop, she aimlessly laid her hand on something very soothing, very pleasant to touch. It was a pile of silk stockings. Their price had been reduced from two dollars and fifty cents to one dollar and ninety-eight cents.

Two hectic blotches came suddenly into her pale cheeks and she said, "Well, I'll take this pair."

Mrs. Sommers took the elevator, which carried her to the ladies' waiting-rooms. Here, she exchanged her cotton stockings for the new silk ones which she had just bought.

How good was the touch of the raw silk to her flesh! She felt like lying back in the cushioned chair and revelling for a while in the luxury of it.

Then she crossed straight over to the shoe department. She wanted an excellent and stylish fit, she told the young fellow who served her, and she did not mind the difference of a dollar or two more in the price so long as she got what she desired.

There were books and magazines piled up in the window of a stall a few paces down the street. Mrs. Sommers bought two high-priced magazines such as she had been accustomed to read in the days when she had been accustomed to other pleasant things.

There was restaurant at the corner. She had never entered its doors; from the outside she had sometimes caught glimpses of spotless linen fabric and shining crystal, and soft-stepping waiters serving people of fashion.

When she entered, her appearance created no surprise, no consternation, as she had half feared it might. While waiting to be served she removed her gloves leisurely and laid them beside her. After being served, she tasted a bite, and she read a word or two, and she sipped the coffee and wiggled her toes in the silk stockings. The price of it made no difference. She counted the money out to the waiter and left an extra coin on his tray, whereupon he bowed before her as before a princess of royal blood.

Mrs. Summers went to the corner and waited for the cable car. A man with keen eyes, who sat opposite to her, seemed to like the study of her small, pale face. It puzzled him to decipher what he saw there. In truth, he saw nothing- unless he were wizard enough to detect a poignant wish, a powerful longing that the cable car would never stop anywhere, but go on and on with her forever.

a. i. Given below are three words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [3]

1. seemingly \_\_\_\_\_

2. randomly \_\_\_\_\_

3. marks \_\_\_\_\_

ii. For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least ten words using the same word unchanged in form but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage. [3]

1. State

2. act

3. present

b. Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:

i. How did Mrs. Sommers react after she got fifteen dollars unexpectedly? [2]

ii. How did Mrs. Sommers feel after buying a pair of silk stockings? [2]

iii. What reaction had Mrs. Sommers expected on entering the restaurant? [2]

iv. How was Mrs. Sommers treated in the restaurant? [2]

v. Summarise in not more than 100 words, how Mrs. Sommers spent the day enjoying her freedom and the money to spend on herself.

(paragraphs 4 to 11). Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. You will be required to write your answers in the form of a connected passage. [6]

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