

I PRE - BOARD EXAMINATION- 2025-26

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (PAPER-1)

(Maximum Marks: 80)

(Two hours)

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

They must NOT start writing during this time)

Attempt all Five Questions.

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

(You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering question 1 and 20 minutes in Question 2.)

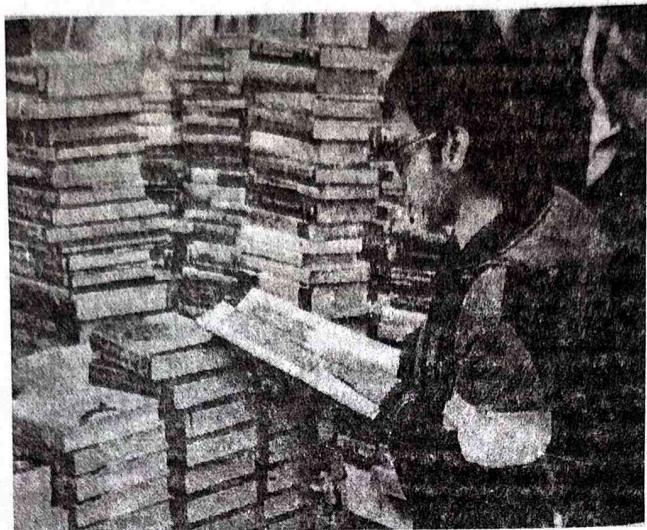
Question. 1

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

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

- i. Write an original story which justifies the theme: 'Success does not move along a straight line'.
- ii. Narrate your experience of waiting on the pavement for the school bus on a rainy morning.
- iii. 'The harder you work, the luckier you become'. Express your views either for or against this statement.
- iv. What type of friend would you like to have- someone who is rich, or someone who is ever helpful, or someone who is reliable? Describe which one of these characteristics is most important to you and why.
- 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.

This paper consists of 8 printed pages.



Question 2

Select 'any one' of the following. [10]

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

- a. You had planned to go for a movie with your cousin, but unfortunately, you could not accompany him/ her. Write a letter of apology to him/ her explaining what prevented you from keeping the appointment.
- b. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your city complaining against the proposal of converting the only park in your area into a multi- level parking lot.

Question 3

- a. Your school is organising an Inter- School Poetry Competition on the occasion of the Independence Day. Write a notice to be put up in your school, asking the students of classes IX and X to submit their names for the competition. [5]
- b. Write an e-mail to a famous lyricist requesting him/ her to judge the Inter- School Poetry Competition to be held in your school. [5]

Question. 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Ants talk- not with words but with tastes and smells! Their vocabulary is made up of a mixture of substances they produce in various parts of their bodies and emit via their glands. The substances, known as pheromones, are signals that other ants can smell and taste. The messages they communicate set off a specific kind of behaviour: fetching food, for instance, or looking after the brood or feeding the queen. Ants use a hundred different scents to communicate a hundred different messages. With such a sophisticated array of messenger fragrances, ants organise complicated tasks with close- to- perfect efficiency.

When you see a handful of ants *scurrying* around in the kitchen without any apparent purpose, it doesn't mean they've lost their bearings. They're scouts *foraging* for food. Once they've found something edible, they report back to base, depositing their chemical spores on the way. "Food located, please collect," is the taste and smell message for the other ants back at the nest. Soon, long chains of worker- ants begin scurrying back and forth from their nest ferrying food which they handover to ants who specialize in housekeeping. The duties of these ants include keeping the nest in good order and cleaning and feeding the queen.

Jet ants settle in hollow trees where they build papery structures to live in. In these trees they keep herds of greenflies which they actually milk in the same way we milk cows. It is a model partnership. To satisfy their need for amino acids, the greenflies have to ingest large quantities of sap. As a result, surplus sugar forms in their bodies which they excrete through their rear ends. This so- called honeydew is the jet ants' main source of nourishment. In return, the ants see to it that the greenflies don't get stuck fast in their own honey and also protect their herds from marauding predators such as ladybirds. In fact, it is a form of dairy farming.

Dairying is only of the many ingenious ideas ants have come up within the course of evolution. Small red wood ants, for example, regulate the temperature in their high- rise anthills by sunbathing on warm spring days and then scuttling back to the nest double quick to give off the warmth they have soaked up.

An ant colony, Holldobler says, is an almost perfectly organised network of ants complementing one another in all they do. Ants will do anything as long as it is in the service of the common weal. Perhaps, socialism does work after all under certain circumstances.

- 1) For each word given below choose the correct meaning as used in the passage from the options provided. [2]
 - i) scurrying
 - a. hastening
 - b. strolling
 - c. lumbering
 - d. dawdling
 - ii. foraging
 - a. idling
 - b. ignoring
 - c. hunting
 - d. pushing
- 2) Which word in the passage is the opposite of "emit"? [1]
 - a. surplus
 - b. ingest
 - c. brood
 - d. edible
- 3) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
 - a. How do the ants communicate among themselves? [2]
 - b. Give an example of the effective communication among the ants. [2]
 - c. What is referred to as 'milk' from the greenflies? [1]
 - d. What do the greenflies receive in return for giving milk to the ants? [2]
 - e. How do the ants regulate the temperature in their anthills? [2]
4. In not more than fifty words, state how ants work for their common good. [8]

Question- 5

i) Fill in each 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) heard

Fleming was a Scottish farmer. One day at work in a field, he 0 (hear) a cry for help. 1 (Follow) the sound, Fleming came to a deep bog, in which a boy was stuck up. Fleming 2 (pull) the boy to safety. The next day a carriage 3 (arrive) at Fleming's farmhouse. A well- dressed man 4 (step) out and introduced himself as the father of the boy whom Fleming 5 (save). "You saved my son's life", said the man to Fleming, "How can I repay you?" "I don't want any payment", Fleming replied. At that moment, Fleming's own young son appeared at the farmhouse door. "Is he your son?" the man asked. "Yes", said Fleming proudly.

"I have an idea. Let me pay for your son's education. If he's like his father, he 6 (grow) to be a man we'll both be proud of." And so the visitor did. The farmer's son later became the world- renowned Nobel Prize- winning scientist and discoverer of penicillin, Sir Alexander Fleming. It 7 (say) that many years later, the grown up man who'd been saved from the bog as boy, was 8 (strike) with pneumonia. Penicillin saved his life. He was Sir Winston Churchill, the former Prime Minister of England.

[4]

ii. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

1. The general commanded his men to carry _____ his orders.
2. What made her fall _____ evil days?
3. My aunt is very ill, but she will pull _____.
4. She has no excuse _____ not coming to the function.
5. The company will soon bring _____ a new edition of the textbook.
6. The children are too young to sit _____ a long movie.
7. The culprit is still _____ large.
8. We long _____ peace.

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

1. There was a storm. We ran for shelter.
 - a. We ran for shelter in the storm.
 - b. We took shelter in the storm.
 - c. As there was a storm, we ran for shelter.
 - d. When we ran for a shelter, there was a storm.
2. He injured his foot. He was running the race.
 - a. He injured his foot while running the race.
 - b. He injured his foot because he ran in the race.
 - c. He was running the race for he injured his foot.
 - d. He injured his foot after he was running the race.
3. Turn to the right. You will find the shop.
 - a. You will find the shop before you turn to the right.
 - b. Turning to the right, you will find the shop.
 - c. You will find the shop unless you turn to the right.
 - d. Turning to the right, you may find the shop.

4. My health was poor. I was on leave from the office.

- I was on leave from the office as my health was poor.
- I was on leave from the office for my poor health.
- My health was poor as I was on leave from the office.
- I was on leave from the office being poor in health.

iv. Choose the correct option to write the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. [8]

- There are few people in the market today.
(Begin : There are hardly.....)
a. There are hardly people in the market today.
b. There are hardly any people in the market today.
c. There are hardly any few people in the market today.
d. There are hardly few people in the market today.
- The price of vegetables has risen recently.
(End.....vegetables.)
a. Recently there has been a rise in the price of vegetables.
b. Recently there is a rise in the price of vegetables.
c. Recently there has been price rise of vegetables.
d. There is recently a rise in the price of vegetables.
- "Do you have any hotel in the city?" My uncle asked me.
(Begin : My uncle.....)
a. My uncle asked me if I have any hotel in the city.
b. My uncle asked me if had I any hotel in the city.
c. My uncle asked me if I had any hotel in the city.
d. My uncle asked me if have I any hotel in the city.
- My luggage is so heavy that it cannot be easily carried.
(Begin: My luggage is too)
a. My luggage is too heavy that it cannot be easily carried.
b. My luggage is too heavy that it cannot be carried easily.
c. My luggage is too heavy to be carried easily.
d. My luggage is too heavy for being carried easily.