

I TERM EXAMINATION : 2023-24

CLASS- XII (ISC)

SUBJECT- ENGLISH LANGUAGE (PAPER - 1)

M.M.: 80

Time : 3 hrs.

(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 parts of questions are given in brackets []
(You are advised to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1, 40 minutes
on Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and 1 hour on Question 4.)

(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)

Q.1 Write a composition (in approximately 400-450 words) on any one of the following topics: [20]

- Suppose you are given a chance to meet a person from the past. Whom would you like to meet and why? Describe his/her personality traits which you wish to imbibe.
- 'A rich man does not sleep peacefully.' Argue for or against the given statement.
- Poverty
- Narrate your experience when you gave up all luxuries for a week and led a simple life in a village.
- "Too little freedom leads to frustration and too much brings chaos and confusion." Express your views on the given statement.
- Complete the short story that begins with following words. My mother stopped suddenly at the doorway and stared in amazement at

Q.2 a. You are the Head Boy/Head Girl of **The XYZ School** and you have been asked to give a speech at the morning assembly on the topic-'Hardwork and Success'. Use the following guidelines to write the speech: [15]
Greeting and address to the gathering _ importance of hardwork _ importance of success _ careful use of time _ connection between hardwork and success _ leading to the pinnacle of success.

b. As the President of the Student Council of **The XYZ school**, you have been asked to organize a talk on **Fighting the Dengue menace in our town**. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, outlining the steps you would take to make this event a success. [10]

Q.3 a. Complete sentence B, making it as similar in meaning as possible to sentence A. Write sentence 'B' in each case. [5]

- A. My mother seldom goes to the theatre now a days.
B. Seldom
- A. We locked the gate just after he had left the house.
B. No sooner
- A. The men were forced to work although the light was poor.
B. In spite
- A. The sports teacher arranged everything for the match.
B. All the
- A. Very few Indian kings were so great as Ashok.
B. Ashoka was.....

b. Fill in each blank with a suitable word. [5]

- Ramesh jumped _____ my offer of a job.
- The teacher jumped _____ a conclusion and punished the child.
- The whole family turned _____ him .
- He turned _____ to be more hard working than his father.
- I wondered how I ran _____ such a high bill.

6. The battery of my phone has run _____.
 7. The judge went _____ the case carefully.
 8. I went _____ my plans to revise them.
 9. My neighbour deals _____ leather.
 10. The police dealt firmly _____ the crowd.
- c. Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in the brackets. Do not write the passage, but write the verbs in the correct order. [5]
- We decided to travel by car and 1 (leave) the house early. We 2 (be) on the road for two hours, when our car 3 (hit) a stone that 4 (lie) in the middle of the road. The car 5 (go) off the road but we 6 (escape) with minor injuries. Had we 7 (travel) faster, we 8 (involve) in a serious accident. The mishap 9 (delay) us but did not 10 (damp) our enthusiasm.

Q.4 Read the passage given below and answer the questions (i), (ii) and (iii) that follow:

The Snow Goose

In the late spring of 1930, Philip Rhayader came to the abandoned lighthouse at the mouth of the river Adder on the Essex coast. He was a painter of birds and of nature and had withdrawn from all human society. He was afflicted with a hunched back and a deformed, twisted hand.

Although physical deformity often breeds hatred of humanity in people, Rhayader did not hate any one. His heart was filled with pity and understanding. He had mastered his handicap, but he could not **master** the rebuffs he suffered because of his appearance. The thing that drove him into seclusion was his failure to find anybody who loved him as much as he loved nature and humanity.

One November afternoon, three years after Rhayader had come to the Great Marsh, a child approached his lighthouse studio. In her arms, she carried a burden. She was no more than twelve, slender, dirty, nervous and timid as a bird, but beneath the dirt, as beautiful as a fairy. She was desperately frightened of the ugly man she had come to see, but greater than her fear was the need of that which she carried. For locked in her child's heart was the knowledge picked up somewhere in the swamp-land, that this ogre who lived in the lighthouse had magic that could heal injured things.

She had never seen Rhayader before and was close to fleeing in panic at the dark apparition that appeared at the studio door, drawn by her footsteps- the black head and beard, the sinister hump and the crooked hand, bent at the wrist. She stood there staring, poised like a disturbed marsh bird for instant **flight**. But his voice was deep and kind when he spoke to her.

'What is it, child?'

She stood her ground, and then edged timidly forward. The thing she carried in her arms was a large white bird and it was quite still. There were stains of blood on its whiteness and on her dress where she had held it to her.

The girl placed it in his arms. "I found it, sir. Is it **still** alive?" "Yes. Yes, I think so. Come in child, come in." Rhayader went inside bearing the bird, which he placed upon a table, where it moved feebly.

Curiosity overcame fear. The little girl followed and found herself in a room warmed by a coal fire, shining with many coloured pictures that covered the walls and full of a strange but pleasant smell.

The bird fluttered. With his good right hand Rhayader spread one of its immense white pinions. The end was beautifully tipped with black. Rhayader looked and marvelled and said, "Child, where did you find it?"

"In the marsh, sir, where fowlers had been. What- what is it, sir?"

It is a snow goose from Canada. But how in heaven did it come here?"

The name seemed to mean nothing to the little girl. Her deep, violet eyes, shining out of the dirt on her thin face, were fixed with concern on the injured bird.

She said, "Can you heal it, Sir?"

'Yes, yes', said Rhayader. "We will try. Come, you shall help me."

There were scissors and bandages and splints on a shelf and he was marvelously deft, even with the crooked hand that managed to hold things. He said, "Ah, she has been shot, poor thing. Her leg is broken and the wing tip, but not badly. We will bandage the wing closer to her body, so that she cannot move it until it has set and then make a splint for the poor leg."

Her fears forgotten, the child watched, fascinated, as he worked and fixed a line splint to the shattered leg. "A bitter reception for a visiting princess," concluded Rhayader. "We will call her the Lost Princess. And in a few days, she will be feeling much better. See?"

He reached into his pocket and produced a handful of grains. The snow goose opened its round yellow eyes and nibbled at it. The child laughed with delight.

- i. a. Given below are three words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage. [3]
1. cruel and frightening creature
 2. seemingly evil and dangerous
 3. wings
- b. For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least 10 words using the word unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that it carries in the passage. [3]
1. master
 2. flight
 3. still
- ii. Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible. [2]
- a. Why did Rhayader live alone? [2]
 - b. What was the child's reaction on first seeing Rhayader? [2]
 - c. What was the child's burden? [2]
 - d. How did Rhayader manage to fascinate the child and make her happy? [2]
- iii. Describe in not more than 100 words how Rhayader attended to the bird (paragraphs 6-12) and fascinated the girl. Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. [6]
