2024

SPECIMEN PAPERS

ICSE 2024 EXAMINATION

SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(ENGLISH PAPER – 1)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15** minutes.*

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

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*Attempt **all five** questions.*

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

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

Question 1

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

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

(i) Write an original short story entitled: 'A Narrow Escape'.

(ii) Have you ever forgiven someone when it was hard to do so?
Explain what helped you to forgive them, and the positive impact it had.
What did you learn from the experience?

(iii) *'Competition hampers the overall development of students.'.*
Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) You are taking a leisurely stroll in a beautiful garden.
Describe what you see around you, adding details about the sounds and the scents.

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(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.

Question 2 [10]

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

Select ***any one*** of the following:

(i) You recently read an interesting book that impacted you deeply. Write a letter to your friend highlighting the parts that impressed you. Explain two ways in which you would like to make changes in your behaviour or actions based on what you have read.

(ii) As someone who enjoys gardening, you would like other students in your school to experience its benefits. Write a letter to the principal of your school seeking permission to start a club for students to learn about gardening. Give specific reasons for your request and explain why the club would meet after school hours.

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Question 3

(i) Your school is hosting an interschool debate competition. Write a notice informing the students at your school about the event. [5]

(ii) Write an e-mail to the principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the interschool debate competition being held at your school and requesting him/her to send a team of students to participate. [5]

Question 4

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

Tiger Talk:

It was still a busy hour in the city when I entered Market Road. People ran for their lives at the sight of me. As I progressed through, shutters were pulled down, and people hid themselves under culverts, on trees, behind pillars. The population was melting out of sight. At the circus I had had no chance to study human behaviour. Outside the circus ring they sat in their seats placidly while I cowered before Captain's whip. I got a totally wrong notion of human beings at that angle. I had thought that they were ***sturdy*** and fearless. But now I found them fleeing before me like a herd of deer, although I had no intention of attacking them. When I paused in front of a tailor's shop, he abandoned his machine and shut himself in a cupboard, wailing, 'Alas, I am undone, won't someone shoot that tiger?' A prisoner between two constables, who had been caught for murder and was just emerging from the Court House, got his chance to escape when the constables fled, abandoning him with his handcuffs. I tore a horse from its *jutka* and enjoyed the sight of the passengers spilling out of it and running for their lives. A couple of street dogs invited destruction when they barked madly, instead of minding their business.

Later, I learnt from my master of the chaos that befell the city when it became known that Captain had been destroyed and that I was somewhere in the city. Sheer hopelessness seems to have seized the townspeople. They withdrew to their homes and even there remained nervous. All doors and windows everywhere were shut, bolted, and sealed. Some even thought that I was some extraordinary creature who might pass through the walls and lie in wait on the roof or in the loft or ***basement***. Poor people living in huts had real cause to

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worry: I could have taken any of their homes apart. But why should I? One could understand their fears, but why should those living in brick and cement feel nervous? It was due to their general lack of a sense of security and an irrational dread of losing their assets. Why should a simple tiger have any interest in them either to destroy or to safeguard?

I rested for a moment at the door of Anand Bhavan, on Market Road, where coffee drinkers and tiffin eaters at their tables sat transfixed, uttering low moans on seeing me. I wanted to assure them, 'Don't fear, I am not out to trouble you. Eat your tiffin in peace, don't mind me ... You, nearest to me, hugging the cash box, you are craven with fear, afraid even to breathe. Go on, count the cash, if that's your pleasure. I just want to watch, that's all ... If my tail trails down to the street, if I am blocking your threshold, it is because, I'm told, I'm eleven feet tip to tail. I can't help it. I'm not out to kill ... I'm too full—found a green pasture teeming with food on the way. Won't need any for several days to come, won't stir, not until I feel hungry again. Tigers attack only when they feel hungry, unlike human beings who slaughter one another without purpose or hunger ...'

— *A Tiger in the School*, R. K. Narayanan

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. sturdy *(line 7)*
   - (a) brave
   - (b) strong
   - (c) compassionate
   - (d) fixed
2. basement *(line 23)*
   - (a) room at the top of the house
   - (b) library
   - (c) the ground floor
   - (d) a room at the bottom of the house

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(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word liabilities. [1]

(a) threshold

(b) chaos

(c) assets

(d) cash box

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

(a) Which sentence in the passage tells us that the people were fast disappearing? [2]

(b) Why was the prisoner lucky on that day? [2]

(c) What reason does the tiger give to explain why people in brick and cement houses are nervous? [2]

(d) The passage describes a man who is shivering with fear and clutching his cash box. What kind of a person do you think he was? [2]

(e) How would you have reacted if a tiger walked into the street outside your school? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, describe the tiger's thoughts on how differently people behave inside and outside the circus. [8]

Question 5

(i) Fill in each of the 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) Rikki-tikki _____ (know) better than to waste time in staring.

Answer: *knew*

Rikki-tikki was angry. He sat back on his tail and hind legs, and _____ (1) (look) all round him, _____ (2) (chatter) with rage. But Nag and Nagaina _____ (3) (disappear) already into the grass. When a snake misses its stroke, it never _____ (4) (say) anything or _____

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(5) (give) any sign of what it means to do next. Rikki-tikki did not care to follow them, for he did not _____ (6) (feel) sure that he _____ (7) (can) manage two snakes at once. So, he trotted off to the gravel path, and sat down to think. It _____ (8) (is) a serious matter for him.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]

(a) My sister and I get _____ very well with each other.

(b) Mini plays basketball _____ her friends every day.

(c) It has been twenty years _____ she graduated from college.

(d) Growing up, we were looked _____ and brought up by our grandparents.

(e) Most students take the bus _____ school as it reaches the premises on time.

(f) The cricket match was put _____ because of torrential rains.

(g) Roy backed _____ of the competition at the last minute.

(h) I have been training under her _____ the past two years.

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

1. We placed our order late. We received the food on time.

   (a) Despite placed our order late, the food was received on time.

   (b) Despite placing our order late, we received the food on time.

   (c) Despite we placed our order late, the food was received on time.

   (d) Despite of us placing our order late, we receiving the food on time.

2. The music stopped. The audience left the auditorium.

   (a) Hardly had the music stopped so the audience left the auditorium.

   (b) Hardly had the music stopped then the audience left the auditorium.

   (c) Hardly had the music stopped since the audience left the auditorium.

   (d) Hardly had the music stopped when the audience left the auditorium.

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3. You cannot enter the club. You do not have a membership.

   (a) You cannot enter the club unless you have a membership.

   (b) You cannot enter the club since you have a membership.

   (c) You cannot enter the club whereas you have a membership.

   (d) You cannot enter the club if you have a membership.

4. She was very late. She could not catch the train.

   (a) She was to late to catch the train.

   (b) She was so late to catch the train.

   (c) She was too late to catch the train.

   (d) She was as late so as to catch the train.

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

1. The burglar ran away the moment he saw the guard.

   (Begin with: No sooner…)

   (a) No sooner has the burglar seen the guard, he ran away.

   (b) No sooner than the burglar saw the guard, he ran away.

   (c) No sooner did the burglar see the guard when he ran away.

   (d) No sooner had the burglar seen the guard than he ran away.

2. The parents have trained their children well.

   (Begin with: The children …)

   (a) The children were trained well by their parents.

   (b) The children is being trained well by their parents.

   (c) The children had been trained well by their parents.

   (d) The children have been trained well by their parents.

3. My cousins returned home one month ago.

   (Begin with: 'It has'...)

   (a) It has been one month for my cousins' return home.

   (b) It has been one month since my cousins returned home.

   (c) It has been one month when my cousins returned home.

   (d) It has been one month ago that my cousins returned home.

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4. Your form will be accepted if it is submitted on time.
(Use: 'unless')

   (a) Your form will be accepted unless it is submitted on time.

   (b) Unless your form is submitted on time, it will not be accepted.

   (c) Unless the form is accepted, it should be submitted on time.

   (d) Your form will be accepted unless it is not submitted on time.

5. The house needs a thorough cleaning again.
(Use: thoroughly)

   (a) The house needs a thoroughly cleaning again.

   (b) The house needed a cleaning thoroughly again.

   (c) The house needs to be cleaned thoroughly again.

   (d) The house needed to be thoroughly clean yet again.

6. My sister offered me a new job in her company.
(Begin with: A new job…)

   (a) A new job was offered to me by my sister in her company.

   (b) A new job has been offered to me by my sister in her company.

   (c) A new job had been offered to me by my sister in her company.

   (d) A new job was being offered to me by my sister in her company.

7. "I am going to watch my friend's play tomorrow," she said.
(Begin with: She said...)

   (a) She said that she is going to watch her friend's play tomorrow.

   (b) She said that she will be going to watch her friend's play tomorrow.

   (c) She said that she was going to watch my friend's play the following day.

   (d) She said that she was going to watch her friend's play the following day.

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8. Nithin is more talented than most of the professional musicians I know.

(Use: few)

(a) Professional musicians I know have few talents as Nithin.

(b) Few professional musicians I know are as talented as Nithin.

(c) Few professional musicians I know are not as talented as Nithin.

(d) Professional musicians I know do not have as few talents as Nithin.

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