

ICSE Board
Class IX English Language
Sample Paper 1
Solution

Question 1**(a)**

History has shown that women have always been treated as gentle and fragile. A woman is supposed to be beautiful and attractive, but also motherly, docile and soft-spoken. On the other hand, the society always expects men to be rich, independent and charming, but also intelligent, chivalrous, and kind. If we come across an independent woman and a docile man, it is immediately assumed that they are misfits in the so called normal world. In my opinion, the only way to treat men and women as equal is to stop stereotyping them.

A man can be soft-spoken and a woman can be physically stronger. A male classical dancer needs to be elegant with his moves while a female army officer needs to be agile and strong. Possessing different characteristics makes them unique and praise-worthy, not a misfit in the society.

With a remarkable improvement in the standard of living, both men and women have started moving out of their comfort zones to earn for a decent living. A woman is no longer confined to her home, and neither is it only the man's responsibility to earn money for the family. More and more women are taking over the reins of organizations. Families that have working women should volunteer to look after the family instead of blaming the women of being greedy and ambitious. On the other hand, men too are seen coming out in the spotlight as successful individuals in unconventional professions; areas that were once women-oriented. They should not be mocked at or effeminised. Treating men and women equal means allowing them to flourish the way they want to.

The perception that men receive favorable treatments cuts across generations, and is true to a great extent. In many parts of India, a girl child is still deprived of basic needs so that her brothers live a better life. A wife is expected to be meek and submissive because the husband likes her to be so. If we want both the genders to be treated fairly, we must stop discrimination at every level and allow men and women to live first as human beings, and treat each other with mutual respect.

(b)

It was in the dead of the night that I heard a loud noise from inside the railway station. I was in the waiting room, waiting for my late night train to Goa. As we all rushed to see what had happened, we saw that the railway engine had crashed into the platform after breaking

the emergency brakes line. The area was being evacuated and we all were escorted outside the station premises for safety.

It was shortly announced that all the out-station trains were cancelled after the accident. I was beginning to think how miserable my wait would be, especially since I had bought my ticket after standing in the queue for four hours. The smelly corners of the waiting room, the uncertainty of the services being resumed; all this made me very upset. However, something unexpectedly pleasant happened. The station manager came to us and asked us to gather in the other waiting room. Then, he said that the authorities had decided to give us free accommodation in the nearby hotels till the train services resumed. I sighed and imagined a dingy hotel room being allotted to me and was almost sure that I would have to share it with at least one more passenger. Suddenly my phone rang. It was my boss. He had come to know about my train cancellation. He asked me not to worry as he had already made arrangements for my accommodation. He told me to step outside the station premises and look for taxi number 5678, which would drive me to my hotel.

The taxi driver was waiting for me a few meters away from the station. He greeted me politely and helped me with my luggage. Barely after five minutes of driving, the taxi halted. The driver got out of the taxi and started unloading my luggage. I started following him and as I looked what lied ahead of me, I was flabbergasted. "Where are we going?" I asked him anxiously. "Your boss has asked me to take you to the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Sir," he replied.

I was warmly welcomed by the hotel staff even at that odd hour and taken to my room in no time. My room had a sea view, and was appropriately air conditioned. There was a complimentary gift basket with a note from my boss: I know you should have been home celebrating Christmas, but you still came here in Mumbai for our meeting. Until we arrange for your return journey, please enjoy your stay!

I was so touched by his warm gesture. I could have never checked into the Taj Hotel on my own. The hotel boasts of a diverse collection of paintings and works of art from around the world. The huge Belgian chandeliers that I saw as I was escorted to my room left me amazed. The Goan-Christian artifacts, the Mughal-inspired Jali designs and the contemporary sculptures in the hotel made the place so magnificent and made me feel that the hotel has managed to incorporate a myriad of artistic styles and tastes.

The following day, my dining experience was unforgettable. The exotic fruit platter was a pleasant morning in-room surprise. Lunch was a treat to the senses with Chef Oberoi's nine-course meal in Casablanca, one of the hotel's restaurants. I was taken to The Chambers Terrace, for a personalised 7 course dinner and a personal butler. The panoramic view of the Mumbai harbor from the restaurant left me mesmerised.

I stayed at the hotel for a day before my boss arranged for me to go home to my family for Christmas. Those 24 hours were the most memorable moments of my life.

(c)

One day while I was waiting at the bus stop, I saw a small girl with a basket of toys. She was apparently asked to sell the toys by an older person standing across the signal, as I could see children going and giving him the money received after selling their wares. A few meters away, two children of about the girl's age were begging at the traffic signal. This scene forced me to think if it was better to allow child labour than to see them begging on the streets.

I personally feel that since poor families lead a hand to mouth existence, there is no harm in providing children of such families with an opportunity to use their skills to earn some income. Children of a specific age should be allowed to work under supervision because it is better than leading a humiliating life of a beggar. If a child starts earning money at a young age, he is likely to understand the value of money and know how to use his skills to survive. On the other hand, a child who is used to receiving alms will always lead a dependent and a miserable life.

Millions of children in India are forced to beg on the streets. Begging is a big racket that operates like a mafia. Children are kidnapped from good families forced to beg. They are also lured in the name of employment in the cities from poor households and sold off to the begging mafia. Often, children are even made handicap by inflicting temporary or permanent injuries on their bodies, as people give alms to innocent looking handicap children begging helplessly on the streets.

A child who chooses to work over begging shows a high level of self-esteem and a determination to rise above his circumstances. However, responsible elders should supervise the activities of working children and ensure that they do not fall prey to bad company and illegal activities. The lives of children who roam around begging on the streets are futile and directionless, and a sign that these little human beings have surrendered to their fate and have chosen to be at the mercy of other people for the rest of their life.

(d)

A lot has been reported by the media about the recent deluge in Chennai. The capital of Tamil Nadu recorded unprecedented rainfall in the last week of November 2015, surpassing a hundred-year record. Rains continued to lash the city even in early December, throwing normal life out of gear. The government announced holiday for schools and colleges while most of all the factories and offices too remained closed.

In 2005, Mumbai, along with some other regions in Maharashtra, was drowned due to torrential downpour in late July. Innumerable people were stranded on the roads and several lost their homes. Millions of gallons of water was discharged into rivers causing heavy water logging in the cities. It took weeks for the city to come back to its normal strength and vigor.

Not very far away from the deluged cities of Mumbai and Chennai, the drought-stricken regions of India have been regularly witnessing farmer suicides. Families are merely at the mercy of the rain God, as there has been scanty rainfall since 2012 in Maharashtra. In 2015, the Government declared drought in more than 14,000 villages. Thousands of farmers have committed suicide out of helplessness. The problems of scarce rainfall, aridity, infertility and negligence of the government are only increasing every year.

The disparity between the rain hit cities and the drought stricken regions leads to a simple but grave question: Can't rain water from the water-logged regions be harvested for the drought hit regions of India?

There are many ways of harvesting rainwater. It can be collected into natural reservoirs or tanks with the help of a technique called rainwater harvesting. If concerned authorities can transport this water to areas that don't receive adequate rainfall, many farmers will be able to sow and reap peacefully. No farmer will kill himself under the burden of having failed to give his family a good life. Trees will be used to make swings for children and not a noose to end lives. If cloud seeding is taken seriously in the country, regions where agriculture is the main occupation will not have to worry about rains every year. Cloud seeding is an intentional weather modification to induce rainfall. If water from the seas can be desalinated for irrigation or consumption, many people can benefit from the technique of desalination.

Man has done enough harm by aggravating global warming. If only he can now realize the gravity of the situation, there will be just about enough time to salvage the situation. If we fail to act now, the world is going to either drown in a devastating flood or wither away due to a terrible drought. The decision, is ours.

Question 2

(a)

Prakash Amte
C/45, Darshan Society
S.V. Road
Mahim, Mumbai 400 028
5th January 2015

To
The Secretary
Darshan Society
Mahim

Subject: Allotting a separate area for parking cars

Dear Sir,

With due respect, I, Prakash Amte, residing in C/45 would like to request you to allot a separate space for parking cars as we children are not allowed to play in the compound anymore.

Since the number of cars has increased in the past year, children are left with no space to play. In fact, many car owners ask us to go to the playground which is far away from our society. The playground is at least 15 minutes away from our homes and our parents wouldn't allow us to play there beyond 6 o'clock in the evening. We go for our classes after school and return only at 6, which means children will not be able to play at all.

I am aware that a vacant plot is available in our society's south end. If this could be allotted for parking, children could continue playing downstairs where their parents can keep a watch on them.

Your understanding in this regard will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your reply.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Prakash Amte

(b)

Sarita Swami
A/508, Gokul Nivas
Tilak Road, Pratap Nagar
Vasai, Mumbai 400 020
5th November 2015

Dearest Shivani,

I am eager to share an experience with you. The other day I saw an old woman while going back home from school. She was very old, barely able to walk, but was carrying two big carry bags in her hands. She laboured as she trudged along the lonely street in the afternoon. It was very hot, and she was visibly inconvenienced. I stopped her and took the two bags from her hands. I offered to accompany her till her home with the bags. She hesitated at first, but later agreed. We walked a good twenty minutes before reaching her house. As I started walking away after keeping her bags at the doorstep, she urged me to come inside and rest for sometime as we had walked quite a bit. As I entered her house, I realised that she was probably living alone. I asked her where her family was. She said she had no family. She asked me to sit on the couch and offered me water and some cookies. I told her that I should hurry up home as my mother would get worried. She smiled at me and asked me to wait for a minute. She went inside and came back with a black bag. She handed it over to me and said that she knew I loved playing cricket. She said she would be happy if I took her grandson's cricket kit as he longer used it

When I came back home and told mother about what happened, she immediately recognised the old woman as Mrs Ahuja, whose husband, son, daughter-in-law, and grandson had died in a freak accident last year. Mother said that it was a wonderful gesture to offer her grandson's cricket kit as she was letting go. "You must keep the kit carefully and call her for your matches," Mother said.

Shivani, I was really touched by Ahuja Aunty's gesture. I now go to meet her regularly and also accompany her to the market if I can. This incident taught me the importance of helping someone in need. Have you experienced such a thing in life?

Do write to me if you can!

Yours truly,
Sarita

Question 3**(a)**

- i. Tremendous: huge
- ii. Vital: important
- iii. Compromise: adjustment

(b)

- (i) God created a teacher on his sixth day of 'overtime'. The creation of teachers is a huge responsibility because teachers should have touched the lives of many impressionable children.
- (ii) A teacher must stand above all students to be at their level. He must be able to do 180 additional things which are not related to their taught subject. A teacher must function on coffee and be able to daily communicate as per his vital knowledge to all students. A teacher must have more time for others than for herself/himself.
- (iii) A teacher should have three pairs of eyes. One pair is to see whether a student for what he is and not what others have labeled him as. The second pair is the pair of eyes which is at the back of the teacher's head to watch what should not be seen, but what must to be known. The third pair is the eyes in the front which is only to look at the child 'acts out' in order to reflect, "I understand and I still believe in you", without so much as saying a word to the child.
- (iv) A teacher's tear is for the joy and pride as he or she watches the child accomplish even the smallest task. It is done for the loneliness of children who find it difficult to fit into compassionate feelings of their parents. A teacher's tear is there for the day when she has to bid farewell to her class and get ready to welcome a new class.

(c)**The Perfect Creation**

God was working overtime to create a teacher when an angel came and asked why it was taking so much time. A teacher was an important creation, as teachers always influence the children. A teacher should always be above the level of the students. A teacher should have worldly knowledge and know how to multi task effectively. A teacher should be a good and fluent communicator, and must have self-respect and be hard working. Most importantly, he should understand and support students and their parents. A teacher is a source for the student's success in failure.

Question 4

(a)

1. Why was an extra class taken by the teacher?
2. Rohit asked Sana if she had collected her book from the librarian.
3. He not only snatched the leash from her but also pushed Willy into the cage.
4. The officer was so tired that he could not save himself from the gun shots.
5. Few films about espionage are as good as this one.
6. He was poor and unemployed despite being a skilled artist.
7. Hardly had the match got over when the crowd dispersed.
8. No sooner did we sit down for dinner than it started thundering.

(b)

1. to visit
2. lived
3. came
4. was
5. prayed

(c)

- (i) Although she has learnt calligraphy, she is yet to get her certificate as a professional calligrapher.
- (ii) Ratan stayed back in the cottage because her master wasn't feeling too well.
- (iii) She worked extra hours as he wanted to buy a bicycle for her son on his birthday.
- (iv) When Gunjan opened her backpack, she found the food packets missing.
- (v) Ashwin reached college late as/because he had to accompany his grandfather to the clinic in the morning.

(d)

1. in
2. inside
3. at
4. for
5. from
6. after
7. in
8. to
9. from
10. in