

ICSE Board
Class X English Language
Sample Paper - 1
(Two hours)

General Instructions:

Total Marks: 80

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1. *Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*
 2. *You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15** minutes.*
This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
 3. *The time given at the head of the paper is the time allotted for writing the answers.*
 4. *Attempt **all** questions*
 5. *The intended marks of questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].*
 6. *You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.*
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*Attempt **all** questions from this section*

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question.)

[25]

Write a composition (350 - 400 words) on any one of the following:

- (a) Imagine a situation in which a character from your favourite book comes alive. Write an imaginary account of a day spent with this character.
- (b) 'The commercialisation of festivals has eroded their real significance.' Express your views either for or against the topic.
- (c) You have stepped into a foreign country for higher studies. You notice that the city you will be living in is a stark contrast to the city you were living in India. Give your personal views regarding the changes that you see.
- (d) Study the picture given below. Write a short story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, your composition must have a clear connection with the picture.



Question 2

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

Select one of the following:

[10]

- (a) Write a letter to the Archeological Survey of India about the damage caused to a historical monument in your city due to negligence. Suggest steps that can be taken to preserve the monument.

- (b) Your best friend, who recently moved to Japan, sent you photos about the Japanese culture and people. Write a letter asking him if schools and education in Japan are different from the schools and education in India.

Question 3

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

There came to our town some years ago a showman who owned an institution called the Gaiety Land. Overnight, our Gymkhana grounds became resplendent with banners and streamers and coloured lamps. From all over the district, crowds poured into the show. Within a week of opening, in gate money, they collected five hundred rupees a day. Gaiety Land provided us with all sorts of fun and gambling and side-shows. For a couple of annas, in each booth, we could watch anything from performing parrots to crack motor cyclists. In addition to this, there were lotteries and shooting galleries, where, for an anna, you always stood a chance of winning a hundred rupees. There was a particular corner of the show which was in great favour. Here, for a ticket costing eight annas, you could be lucky enough to acquire a variety of articles — pin cushions, sewing machines or even a road engine. One evening, they drew a ticket, number 1005, and I happened to own the other half of the ticket. Glancing down the list of articles, they declared that I had become the owner of a road engine! I looked stunned. People gathered around and gazed at me as if I were some sort of a curious animal. Some people muttered and giggled, "Fancy anyone becoming the owner of a road engine!" It was not the sort of prize one could carry home at short notice. I asked the showman if he could help me to transport it. He merely pointed at a notice which decreed that all the winners should remove their prizes immediately after the draw and by their own effort. However, they had to make an exception in my case. They agreed to keep the engine at the Gymkhana Grounds till the end of the season, and then, I would have to make my own arrangements to take it out. When I asked the showman if he could find me a driver, he just smiled and said, "The fellow who brought it here had to be paid a hundred rupees for the job and five rupees a day. I sent him away and made up my mind that if no one was going to draw it, I would just leave it to its fate." "Can't I sell it to some municipality?" I asked innocently. He burst into a laugh. "As a showman I have enough trouble with municipal people. I would rather keep out of the way." My friends and relatives poured in, to congratulate me on my latest acquisition. No one knew precisely how much a road engine would fetch; all the same they felt that there was a lot of money in it. "Even if you sell it as scrap iron, you can make a few thousands," some of my friends declared. Every day I made a trip to the Gymkhana Grounds to have a look at my engine. I grew very fond of it. I loved its shining brass parts. I stood near it and patted it affectionately, hovered about it, and returned home everyday only at the close of the show. I thought all my troubles were coming to an end. How ignorant I was! How little did I guess that my troubles had just begun!

(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrase will be accepted.

[3]

(i) resplendent

(ii) acquire

(iii) exception

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

- (i) Why was the Gaiety Land popular? [2]
- (ii) Why couldn't the narrator carry his prize home? [2]
- (iii) How did the showman react when the narrator
Asked him for help to transport the engine? [2]
- (iv) How much did the relatives think the engine was worth? [2]

(c)

- (i) Write a summary of the given passage in your own words [8]
- (ii) Give a fitting title for your summary and justify the choice of the title. [2]

Question 4

(a) Do as directed. [4]

1. As soon as the teacher arrived, the boys stopped throwing books at each other.
(Begin with *No sooner.....*)
2. Though he is poor he never casts away those who are in need.
(Rewrite using *But*)
3. "Do you want some ice cream or a slice of cake?" asked my mother.
(Rewrite beginning with *My aunt asked...*)
4. They are painting a mural on the exit wall.
(Rewrite beginning with *A mural*)
5. You remembered to pick the laundry on your way back, didn't you?
(Rewrite beginning with *You didn't*)
6. Though she was a kind woman, she was abandoned by her sons.
(Rewrite beginning with *Despite....*)
7. Tansen was the best singer in Akbar's court.
(Rewrite using *Better*)
8. He went to the library and to the bank.
(Rewrite using *Not only...But also*)

(b) Fill up the following blanks by using the correct form of verb given in the brackets. Do not copy the paragraph write only your answer of the blank. [5]

There1..... (be) some confusion in the hall. A man 2..... (get) on the stage and stammered an apology. Then the door 3..... (bang) and the ceremony started again. I 4..... (sit) down on my seat. The priest 5..... (begin) chanting again.

(c) Join the following sentence to make one complete sentence without using *and*, *but* or *so*. [5]

- i. Tanushree was a skilled dancer. Her mother wanted her to become a doctor.
- ii. Iqbal was thrown out of the community hall by the priest. His family protested outside the priest's house.
- iii. Deepak worked day and night on the project. The supervisor selected Chirag's project for the exhibition.
- iv. I went to the clinic. I met my old friend there.
- v. Pinakin and his sister were nature lovers. They had shifted to a city where there was not a single park in site.

(d) Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions. [8]

- i. Big pellets _____ rains were scarring the surface of the river.
- ii. Pratik preferred to stand safely _____ the other side of the road.
- iii. Geetika took the file _____ the closet and walked out of the cabin
- iv. You can see some dark spots _____ the surface marked in yellow.
- v. Put this jacket _____ your shirt as it's chilly outside.
- vi. Sunil drove _____ the tunnel for fifteen minutes.
- vii. The prices have risen _____ 15% after the elections.
- viii. We were just talking _____ you.