

GREENLAWNS HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION YEAR 2017-18

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TIME : 2 HOURS

CLASS : X
MARKS : 80

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.

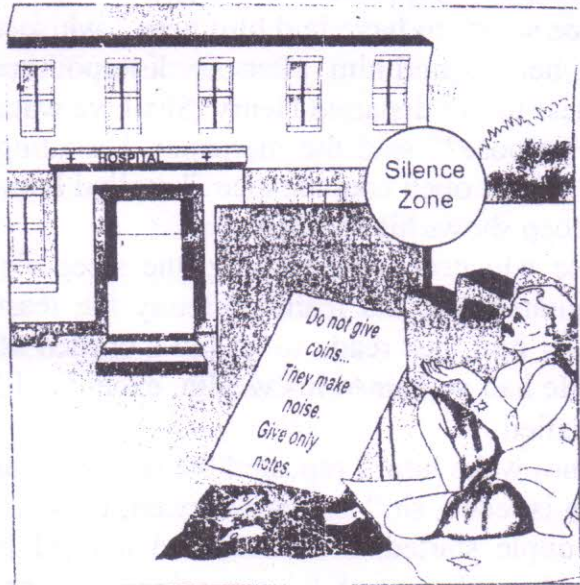
Attempt all four questions

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

You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

Q.I. Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following : [25]

- a) Describe a Sunday evening you can never forget.
- b) Narrate the changes you have seen in your lifetime with regard to people's attitudes towards the environment? How do you feel about those changes?
- c) Smart phones do a lot of harm to students. Give your views either for or against the statement.
- d) Write a short story which begins with a misunderstanding and ends with a friendship. Give it a suitable title.
- e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the picture or may take suggestions from it; but there must be a clear connection between the picture and the composition:



Q.II. Select one of the following:

- a) Your cousin has written a letter requesting you to advise him/her as to which subject should he /she take as one of the elective subjects in Group III for the I.C.S.E. Write your reply to his/her letter giving useful suggestions.
- b) Write a letter to the Chief Minister of your state complaining about the digging up of roads throughout the city for the underground metro line in Mumbai.

[10]

Q.III. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

We can only be partially acquainted with the events which actually influence our life and our final destiny. There are innumerable other events which do not leave any impression on us. If we were to know all the changes in our fortunes, life would be too full of hope and fear, joy and disappointment to afford us a single hour of true serenity. This idea may be illustrated by a page from the secret history of David Swan.

We first met David, at the age of twenty, on the high road from his naïve place to the city of Boston. His uncle a small grocer, was to employ him behind the counter there. Since he had been journeying on foot from sunrise till nearly noon on a summer's day, he was tired. He decided to sit down in the first convenient shade and await the coming up of the stagecoach. The spring murmured drowsily beside him. A deep sleep fell upon David Swan.

He had slept only a few moments when a brown carriage drawn by a handsome pair of horses was brought to a standstill nearly in front of David's resting place. A linchpin had fallen out making one of the wheels to slide off. While the coachman and a servant were replacing the wheel, the lady and gentleman sheltered themselves beneath the trees. They saw the bubbling fountain, and David Swan asleep beside it. The merchant trod as lightly as his gout would allow. His wife took good heed not to rustle her silk gown, lest David should start up all of a sudden. The longer they looked more did this elderly couple feel interested in the unknown youth. Perceiving that a stray sunbeam glimmered down upon his face, the lady twisted a branch aside to intercept it. Having done this little act of kindness, she began to feel like a mother to him.

"Providence seems to have laid him here," whispered she to her husband, "and to have brought us here to find him, after our disappointment in our cousin's son. I think I can see a likeness to our departed Henry. Shall we wake him?"

"To what purpose?" said the merchant, hesitating. "we know nothing of the youth's character." "That open countenance," replied his wife, in the same hushed voice, "that innocent sleep shows his character."

While these whispers were passing, the sleeper's heart did not throb, nor his breath become agitated, nor his features betray the least token of interest. Yet fortune was bending over him, just ready to let fall a burden of gold. The old merchant had lost his only son. He had no heir to his wealth, except a distant relative, with whose conduct he was dissatisfied.

"Shall we not wake him?" repeated the lady persuasively.

"The coach is ready, sir," said the servant, behind.

The old couple started, reddened, and hurried away. They wondered whether they should ever have dreamt of doing anything so very ridiculous.

a) Three words from the passage are given below. Give the meaning of each as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will only be accepted. [3]

i) event

ii) glimmered:

iii) intercept:

b) Answer the following

- i) Why did David fall asleep? [2]
- ii) Why did David as well as the old couple seek shelter beneath the trees? [2]
- iii) What tells us that the old lady had motherly feelings for David? [2]
- iv) Why did the old lady show such keen interest in the sleeping young boy? [2]
- v) Why did the old merchant think contrary? [2]
- vi) What views regarding life has been highlighted in the passage? [2]

c) i) In not more than 60 words of your own, state how David was unfortunate to miss good fortune. [8]

ii) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c) and give a reason to justify your choice. [2]

Q.IV

- a) Complete the following paragraph with a suitable form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the entire paragraph. Write only your answers with the correct number of the blank. [4]

An old man was taken on a tour of heaven and hell. On _____ (reach) the dark regions he was greatly surprised to find the people all _____ (seat) at a banquet table loaded with appetizing food. Everyone had to use the knives and forks _____ (provide) by the management: but these had such long handles that no one _____ (can) get even a piece of food near his mouth. They were all starving to death. And that was hell!

In the heavenly city the old man also _____ (find) the people seated at banquet tables loaded with the same food and _____ (hold) the same long forks. But they _____ (have) a wonderful time. They were _____ (feed) each other. And that was heaven!

b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words [4]

- i. He congratulated me _____ my great achievement.
- ii. The poor man is afflicted _____ arthritis.
- iii. She is blind _____ the fault of her husband.
- iv. The boss had many complaints _____ Ram.
- v. You must prepare _____ the examination.
- vi. She is not aware _____ the danger.
- vii. Ravi was accurate _____ his calculation.
- viii. I prevailed _____ him to join the gymnasium.

C) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and 'but' or 'so'. [4]

- i) Shilpa asked me a question. I was unable to answer it.
- ii) You helped Sanya. She will always be grateful.
- iii) I heard you won a prize. I am extremely delighted.
- iv) There was heavy traffic. We reached the stadium on time.

- d) Rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each.
Make changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning [8]
of each sentence.
- i) She was beautiful and humble. [Begin : Not only -----]
 - ii) Alok has probably forgotten his mother's birthday. [Begin : In all-----]
 - iii) As soon as the Chief Guest arrived the band started playing. [Begin : No sooner---]
 - iv) Tansen was the best singer in Akbar's court. [Use : better]
 - v) No sooner had Priya narrated the story than she was praised. [Begin : Hardly ----]
 - vi) "Have you walked alone, this long distance today?" he asked John
[Change into Reported Speech]
 - vii) Who does this pen belong to? [Begin : Do you know -----]
 - viii) Megha is too short to reach the top shelf . [Remove 'too']