

Greenlawn High School, Mumbai

Preliminary Examination 2020-21

Time: 2 hours

English Language

Marks: 80

Std. X A / B / C

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 **five** questions.

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

Question 1:

[20]

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

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

- a) Give a humorous account of a journey you undertook on a crowded train.
- b) Discuss a day when you learnt the true value of friendship.
- c) Write an original story beginning with the sentence – He was standing at the crossroads not knowing which road to take, when he suddenly heard someone call him.....
- d) Express your view either for or against the statement “ In some ways a modern child has a better life at school than his parents had when they were at school.”
- e) 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:

- a) You have borrowed a bicycle from a friend but while in your care, it has been damaged. Write a letter to your friend apologizing for your mistake and explaining to him/ her what damage has been done and how it all happened.
- b) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your concern about the rising prices of essential commodities.

Question 3:**(10)**

- a) As the secretary of the Art and Craft club of your school, write a notice for the school notice board, informing the students of an Art and Craft Inter House Competition, where they can make things out of waste material.
- b) Write an e-mail to the art director of the Government Art School of your city requesting him to judge the competition.

Question 4:**[20]**

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

One summer Aksionov, a young merchant, was going to the Nizhny fair. But his wife forbade him from going to the fair because of a nightmare she had the previous night in which she had seen him with greyed hair. Disregarding his wife's dream, Aksionov left for the fair. When he had travelled half-way, he met a merchant whom he knew, and they put up at the same inn for the night. They had some tea together, and then went to bed in the adjoining rooms.

When Aksionov had gone about twenty-five miles the next day, he stopped for the horses to be fed. Aksionov rested awhile in the passage of the inn. Suddenly a horse cart drove up with tinkling bells and an official got off, followed by two soldiers. He came to Aksionov and began to question him, asking him who he was and whence he came. Then the official, calling the soldiers, said, "I am the Police Officer of this district, and I question this man because the merchant with whom he spent last night has been found with his throat cut."

The soldiers and the Police-Officer *unstrapped* Aksionov's luggage and searched it. Suddenly the officer drew a knife out of a bag, crying, "Whose knife is this? Aksionov *swore* he had not done anything wrong, and that the knife was not his. The Police-Officer ordered the soldiers to

bind Aksionov and to put him in the cart. Then the trial came on: he was charged with murdering a merchant from Ryazan, and robbing him of twenty thousand roubles.

For the next twenty-six years Askionov lived as a convict in Siberia. His hair turned white as snow, and his beard grew long, thin, and grey. Resigned to his plight, he dedicated his life to God. All his *mirth* vanished; he spoke little, and never laughed.

One day a fresh gang of convicts came to the prison. Aksionov sat down near the newcomers and listened with downcast air to what the new convicts were saying. One of the new convicts, a tall, strong man of sixty, was from Vladimir. He said, "My name is Makar, and they also call me Semyonich." When Aksionov heard these words, he felt sure he was the man who had killed the merchant.

That night, when Aksionov was lying on his bed someone came quietly and sat down on his bed. Aksionov peered through the darkness and recognised Makar.

Makar Semyonich bent close over Aksionov, and whispered, "Ivan Aksionov, forgive me!' It was I who killed the merchant and hid the knife among your things. I meant to kill you too, but I heard a noise outside, so I hid the knife in your bag and escaped out of the window. I will now confess it was I who killed the merchant, and you will be released and can go to your home.'

When Aksionov heard him sobbing, he, too began to weep. "God will forgive you!' said he. And at these words his heart grew light, and longing for home left him. Next morning when the order for his release came, Aksionov was already dead.

a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage:

One-word answers or short phrases will be accepted. (3)

- i. Unstrapped
- ii. Swore
- iii. Mirth

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

- i. Why did Aksionov's wife forbid him from going to the Nizhny fair? How did Aksionov react? (2)
- ii. What did the Police-Officer find in Aksionov's bag? (1)
- iii. What was Aksionov accused of? What punishment did he get? (2)
- iv. How did Aksionov feel when he heard the name Makar from one of the fresh gang of convicts to the prison? (2)

- v. What did Makar tell Aksionov when he came to see him at night? (2)
- c) In not more than 50 words, state how Aksionov led the life of a convict for twenty-six years for the crime he had not committed.(8)

Question 5:

[20]

- a) 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) to build

The Egyptians were the first (0)_____ (build) the dam among ancient civilisations. This was simple enough (1) ____ (make) of the rocks and gravel which (2) _____ (resist) the force of water. However, their dam was not very effective as water eventually managed (3) _____ (trickle) through the rocks. The Mesopotamians on the other hand (4)_____ (build) their dam of soil and clay. The Romans built the first concrete dam in 100 BCE, but in the 17th century the Spanish (5) ____ (perfect) the art of (6)_____ (build) dams. They travelled around the world (7)____ (take) their building methods with them and (8) _____ (shave) their knowledge with the world.

- b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: (4)

- i. He does not want to part ____ his money
- ii. It is difficult to come ____ the rare book.
- iii. We look ____ to our teacher as a guide.
- iv. This building is so old that it will fall _____ at any time.
- v. She has got _____ all her difficulties.
- vi. How did such a crisis come _____?
- vii. Our team put _____ a good fight in the debate.
- viii. We should not deviate _____ our objective.

- c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using** and, but or so: (4)

- i. He may go anywhere. I will find him.
- ii. Here is the lady. Her daughter is a tennis player.
- iii. The thief escaped. It was dark.
- iv. She came to school. She had high fever today.

- d) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. (8)

- i) As soon as the thief heard the sound of the car engine, he ran away.
Begin: No sooner.....

- ii) These books are all the wealth he owns.
Begin: No.....
- iii) Their glory can never fade.
(Change to Interrogative sentence)
- iv) This fact is too evident to require proof.
Use: 'so'
- v) The Ganga is the most sacred river for the Hindus,
(Change the degree of comparison).
- vi) All his friends laughed at him.
Begin: He.....
- vii) Nobody will deny that you did a lot for your friend.
Begin : Everybody.....
- viii) Mahesh told his brother that he would help him in his studies.
Begin: Mahesh said, “.....

-----X-----