

Greenlawn High School, Mumbai

ICSE Preliminary Examination 2023

English Language

English Paper-1

03/01/2023

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 the paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

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) 'Youngsters should not waste their time on social sites such as Twitter and Instagram.' Express your views either for or against the statement.
- (ii) Write a short story based on the proverb, 'Appearances can be deceptive'.
- (iii) You are waiting to catch your flight at the airport. Write a description of the place and mention the sights, sounds and feelings you experienced in this place.
- (iv) Narrate an experience of an outing which you will never forget.
- (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 the composition.



Question 2:

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

Select *any one* of the following:

- (i) You have recently won a national level debating competition held in a different city in which students from 15 states participated. Write a letter to your brother expressing your happiness on winning the competition.
- (ii) Write a letter to the Police Commissioner (Traffic) of your area, regarding the inadequate parking facilities in your colony, which causes a lot of inconvenience to the residents. Mention your grievances and give your suggestions to solve the problem.

Question 3:

- (i) Your school is conducting an inter-school Science Quiz. Write a notice for the students informing them about the event and inviting them to participate in it. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the event and requesting him/ her to send a team of students to participate in the event.

[5]

Question 4:

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

My friend Todd owes me a dollar. He has owed it to me for twelve months, and I fear there is little prospect of his ever returning it. I can realize whenever I meet him that he has forgotten that he owes me a dollar. He meets me in the same frank friendly way as always. My dollar has clean gone out of his mind. I see that I shall never get it back.

On the other hand, I know that I shall remember all my life that Todd owes me a dollar. It will make no difference to our friendship, but I shall never be able to forget it. I don't know how it is with other people; but if any man borrows a dollar from me I carry the recollection of it to the grave.

Let me *relate* what happened. Todd borrowed this dollar last year on the 8th April (I mention the date in case this should ever meet Todd's eye), just as he was about to leave for Bermuda. He needed a dollar in change to pay his taxi fare; and I lent it to him. It happened quite simply and naturally. I hardly realized it till it was all over.

Todd came back in three weeks. We spent the evening together, talking about Bermuda. I was thinking of the dollar but of course I didn't refer to it. One simply can't. I asked him what currency is used in Bermuda, and whether the American Dollar goes at par. I put a slight emphasis on the American Dollar, but found again that I could not bring myself to make any reference to it.

I meet Todd frequently. Only two nights ago I met him out at dinner and he was talking, apparently without self-consciousness about Poland. He said that Poland would never pay her debts. You would think a thing like that would have reminded him of his debt. But it did not seem to.

It took me sometime (I see Todd practically everyday at my Club) to realise that he had completely forgotten the dollar. So I knew it was all over.

In all this I bear Todd no *grudge*. I have simply added him to the list of men who owe me a dollar and who have forgotten it. I make no difference in my demeanour to them, but I only wish I could forget.

But meantime, a thought - a rather painful thought - has begun to come into my mind at intervals. It is this. If Todd owes me a dollar and has forgotten it, it is possible that there must be men to whom I owe a dollar which I have forgotten. There may be a list of them. The more I think of it, the less I like it, because I am quite sure that if I had once forgotten a dollar, I should never pay it, on this side of the grave.

I want to start a general movement, A Back to Honesty Movement, for paying all these odd dollars that are borrowed in moments of expansion. Let us remember that the greatest nations were built upon the rock basis of *absolute* honesty.

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [3]
1. relate (*line 9*)
 - (a) narrate
 - (b) respond
 - (c) sympathise
 - (d) see
 2. grudge (*line 24*)
 - (a) conflict
 - (b) animosity
 - (c) empathy
 - (d) amity
 3. absolute (*line 34*)
 - (a) fixed
 - (b) universal
 - (c) partial
 - (d) complete
- (ii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (a) Why did the narrator think that he has little prospect of getting back the dollar from Todd? [2]
 - (b) Why did Todd borrow a dollar from the narrator? [1]
 - (c) Mention the hints that the narrator gave to remind his friend of the dollar he had borrowed from him [2]
 - (d) What was the effect of Todd's failure to return the dollar on the friendship between him and the narrator? [2]
 - (e) What was the painful thought that came to the narrator's mind on Todd's failure to return the dollar? [2]
- (iii) In not more than 50 words, state why did the narrator think that he would never get his dollar back from Todd. [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) went

A farmer and his neighbour once ..0. (go) to Emperor Akbar's court with a complaint. "Your majesty I bought a well from him," said the farmer, ..1. (point) to his neighbour, "and now he 2(want) me ...3 (pay) for the water. "That's right, your Majesty," said the neighbour. "I ...4 (sell) him the well but not the water"

The Emperor asked Birbal to settle the dispute,

"Didn't you say that you sold your well to this farmer?" Birbal asked the neighbour.

"So, the well belongs to him now, but you5. (keep) your water in his well. Is that right? Well, in that case you6. (have) to pay him a rent or ...7. (take) your water out at once." The neighbour realised that he ...8. (outwit). He quickly apologised and gave up his claim.

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

- He whispered and I could not make _____ what he said.
- His pride has brought _____ his crisis.
- Yash promised to come but he never turned _____.
- Inflation brought _____ our standard of living.
- The soldiers fought _____ the last man.
- The manager called _____ an explanation from the receptionist.
- The old man was run _____ by a speedy truck.
- I was taken _____ when I heard of his death.

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

- Do your work properly. Leave my service.
 - Do your work properly or left my service.
 - Either do your work properly or leave my service.
 - Neither leave my service nor work properly.
 - Do your work properly yet leave my service.
- Sonu was caught red-handed. He was arrested by the police.
 - Sonu was caught red-handed because he was arrested by the police.
 - Sonu was caught or arrested red-handed by the police.
 - Sonu was caught red-handed therefore he was arrested by the police.
 - The police was arrested Sonu who caught red-handed.
- Herman is poor. He is not discontented.
 - Herman is very poor and he is contented.
 - Herman is poor yet he is not discontented.
 - Herman is not discontented yet poor.
 - Herman is poor for he is discontented.
- Avoid fast food. You will fall ill one day.
 - Avoid fast food or you will fall ill one day.
 - Avoid fast food still you will fall ill one day.
 - You will fall ill one day by avoiding fast food.
 - You will fall ill one day but do not avoid fast food.

(iv) 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. Choose the correct options. [8]

1. They laughed at a poor man.

(Begin: *A poor man.....*)

- (a) A poor man was laughed at by us.
- (b) A poor man was laughed at by them.
- (c) A poor man was laughed by them.
- (d) A poor man was laughed at them.

2. The clouds disappeared as soon as the sun rose in the sky.

(Begin: *Hardly.....*)

- (a) Hardly had the sun risen in the sky when the clouds disappeared.
- (b) Hardly did the sun rise in the sky than the clouds disappeared.
- (c) Hardly had the sun rose in the sky than the clouds disappeared.
- (d) Hardly was the sun up in the sky than the clouds disappeared.

3. As soon as he came the lights went out.

(Begin: *No sooner...*)

- (a) No sooner did he came the lights went out.
- (b) No sooner he had come the lights went out.
- (c) No sooner did he come than the lights went out.
- (d) No sooner his arrival than the lights went out.

4. It is the biggest resort in India.

(Begin: *It is bigger.....*)

- (a) It is bigger than most other resorts in India.
- (b) It is bigger than all other resorts in India.
- (c) It is bigger resort than others.
- (d) It is bigger than a few other resorts in India.

5. I accept your offer.

(Use: *acceptable*)

- (a) Your offer is acceptable.
- (b) Your offer is acceptable to me.
- (c) Your offer acceptable for me.
- (d) Your offer very acceptable.

6. He is too weak to walk.

(Remove: *too*)

- (a) He is so weak that he can walk.
- (b) He is very weak for walking.
- (c) He is so weak that he cannot walk.
- (d) He is weak enough not to walk.

7. Ali said, "I have been cheated."

(Begin: *Ali said that.....*)

- (a) Ali said that I was cheated.
- (b) Ali said that he had been cheated.
- (c) Ali said that I am cheated.
- (d) Ali said that I have been cheated.

8. If you do not work hard, you will not succeed.

(Use: Unless)

(a) Unless you worked hard you will succeed.

(b) Unless you are working hard you should succeed.

(c) Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.

(d) Unless you works hard you will not succeed.