

# Greenlawn high School, Mumbai

Preliminary Examination 2024

Time: 2 hours  
Std. X A / B / C

English Language  
English Paper 1

Marks: 80  
16.01.2024

*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 this 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:**

**[20]**

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

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

- i. Write a short story to bring out the truth of the saying, "Never judge a book by its cover."
- ii. "Nothing is impossible in this World." Narrate an incident from your personal experience which brings out the truth of this statement.
- iii. "Peer Pressure is good for all round development of children." Express your views either for or against this statement.
- iv. Describe an incident when you were caught in a traffic jam for hours. What difficulties did you face? What were the consequences?

- 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 your composition.



**Question 2:**

**[10]**

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

Select any one of the following:

- i. You are living in a hostel in Shimla. You have been spending your time reading novels instead of studying. As a result, you have not scored well in the Terminal Exam. Write a letter to your mother expressing your apologies for not being able to perform to her expectations and promising her that you will work hard and do well in the Final exam.
- ii. Write a letter to the Customer Care Manager of a renowned food delivery app on your mobile phone, complaining about the cold soggy food that you received when you ordered food through their app. Give details of the nature of complaint and suggest remedies so that others do not face such a problem.

**Question 3:** [10]

- i. Your school is organizing an inter-school dance competition. Write a notice for your school informing the students about the event.
- ii. Write an email to the principal of a neighbouring school informing her of the competition and requesting her to send a team to participate.

**Question 4:** [20]

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

Over the years Steve and I had a *fluctuating* relationship. A separation of five years in age makes a big difference when you're young. In my late 20's, I had moved to New York to become a sportswriter, while Steve had become a teacher in a Chicago school.

My parents regularly urged us to reconcile. "You only have one brother," they told each of us. You should be friends.

A few weeks later I was speaking to my parents on the phone and heard trouble in my mother's voice. "Steve," she told me, "has to begin chemotherapy."

"Chemotherapy?" I said, taken aback. "Why?"

I asked how he was feeling, and he said the chemo was rough, "But if it's going to do good, then good."

"If there's ever anything—" I began.

"I know," he said, "I know that."

We talked about work. He really cared about his students. He visited their homes, talked with their parents, made sure they had something to eat before school began and took them to places he loved.

I was proud of my brother. And I had told him so, although sometimes I'm not sure that I convinced him. I assumed that for Steve there were difficulties in being the less visible brother. He was younger, shorter and shy. I was also very athletic.

When Steve was in the first year of college, he was homesick and wanted to leave. I phoned him and told him, I thought it was best for him to stay in the college. He thanked me, and said, "I appreciate your advice. I won't quit. It's the most wonderful feeling when you have someone to turn to when you need help."

Now talking to Steve, I realised that there was in his voice, a *determination* to patch things up between us again.

Steve was in and out of the hospital getting chemo over the next few months. I *shuttled* between New York and Chicago over the next few months.

On one of my visits, I met Steve's doctor. I wanted to hear from him what the prognosis was. "Your brother has virtually no immune system," he told me bluntly.

After I left the doctor, I went to see Steve. The entire family was there. When it was time to leave for the airport, I walked over to my brother and put my hand on his shoulder. "I love you, Steve," I said.

"I love you too. Come here." He grabbed my jacket, pulled me to him and kissed my cheek. I turned, waved goodbye- and walked out. If I had tried to speak, I would have cried.

I thought on the way to the airport. I said, "I love you." I had never told my brother that before. He had never told me, either. How strange. Why was it so hard?

Four days later, Steve developed critical pneumonia and was put on a respirator. There was no miracle. The end came on Tuesday, May 21. I held his hand, I told him again that I loved him, then I kissed him on the forehead and said goodbye.

At Steve's funeral, the chapel had standing room only. Old and young, men and women. It was wonderful. Steve's entire class had come.

Students met us after the service and some sent letters to Steve's wife. None of us in the family had any idea how my brother had so profoundly affected his student's lives. I'm not sure even if he realised it.

I considered what makes a person important. There are the people in the spotlight whom we honour, but who go about their lives in selfish pursuits. Then there are the people like Steve, who make a hands-on difference but for whom no monuments are built, no streets are named and no parades are arranged.

**a. For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: (2)**

i. fluctuating (line 1)

- a. stable
- b. varying
- c. relying
- d. supporting

ii. determination (line 23)

- a. resolve
- b. indifference
- c. indecisiveness
- d. hope

iii. Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word: shuttled? (1)  
(line 25)

- a. lingered
- b. move up and down
- c. commuted
- d. to and fro

**b. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:**

- a. Which actions of Steve show that he was fond of his students? (2)
- b. What was Steve determined to do? In which city did Steve reside in? (2)
- c. What brought the brothers together after their fluctuating relationship? (1)
- d. What was the reaction of the students after their teacher passed away? (2)
- e. How are the men in the spotlight different from those who do selfless service? (2)

**c. In not more than 50 words, describe the relationship that existed between the two brothers. (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) saw

One morning I (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a python curled up on the dressing table.

It was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (gaze) at its own reflection in the mirror. I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) for grandfather but by the time we (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (return) to the room, the python (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (move) on. He was seen in the garden and once the cook saw him (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (crawl) up the ladder to the roof. Then we (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (find) him on the dressing table again (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (admire) himself in the mirror. "He's trying to look better for Aunt Mabel" I said. I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (regret) this remark immediately because grandmother overheard and held up my pocket money for the rest of the week!

ii. **Fill in the blanks with appropriate words:**

**[4]**

- a. The poet's mother was stung \_\_\_\_\_ a scorpion.
- b. The soldier fought bravely \_\_\_\_\_ his country.
- c. There is no use crying \_\_\_\_\_ spilt milk.
- d. I do not know what they were arguing \_\_\_\_\_ but I could hear angry voices.

- e. The school playground is out \_\_\_ bounds for the pupils of the primary school.
- f. He just scraped \_\_\_ his examination.
- g. Mrs. Kapoor was bent \_\_\_\_\_ attending the meeting.
- h. She is proud and looks \_\_\_\_\_ on her colleagues.

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

1. She was praised. She was rewarded.

- a. She was not only praised but also rewarded.
- b. She was praised so much and also rewarded.
- c. She was rewarded after her praise.
- d. She was praised but not rewarded.

2. I met Sheila's mother. She works in a school library.

- a. I met Sheila's mother which works in a school library.
- b. I met Sheila who works in a school library with her mother.
- c. I met Sheila her mother works in a school library.
- d. I met Sheila's mother who works in a school library.

3. Sunita opened her purse. She found the money missing.

- a. When Sunita opened her purse, she found the money missing.
- b. Sunita opened the purse for she found the money missing.
- c. As soon as Sunita opens the purse, she found the money missing.
- d. Unless Sunita opened the purse, she found the money missing.

4. The children were delighted. The exams had been cancelled.

- a. The children were delighted but the exams had been cancelled.
- b. The children were delighted since the exams had been cancelled.
- c. The children were delighted as long as the exams had been cancelled.
- d. The children were delighted despite the exams having been cancelled.

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. Kalidasa was one of the greatest poets of India. (use: 'great')
  - a. Very few poets of India were as great as Kalidasa.
  - b. Kalidasa was the greatest poet of India.
  - c. Kalidasa was as great as the greatest poet of India.
  - d. Kalidasa was not a great poet.
2. Richa said to her friend, "My sister is listening to the radio while I am writing letters." (Begin: Richa said....)
  - a. Richa said to her friend to write letters while her sister was listening to the radio.
  - b. Richa said to her friend that her sister was listening to the radio while she was writing letters.
  - c. Richa said to her friend that she was listening to the radio while her sister was writing letters.
  - d. Richa requested her sister to listen to the radio while she was writing letters.
3. One should be kind to the poor. (Use noun form of 'kind')
  - a. Be kindness to the poor.
  - b. One should show kindness to being poor.
  - c. One should show kindness to the poor.
  - d. Be kind to the poor.
4. A liar is seldom trusted. (Begin: A person.....)
  - a. A person who lies is not trusted.
  - b. A person seldom is not trusted.
  - c. A person who lies is seldom trusted.
  - d. A person lied and we do not trust him.

5. We are too short to climb it. (Remove 'too')
- We are so short that we can climb it.
  - We are short enough to climb it.
  - We are so short that we cannot climb it.
  - We are so short that we will climb it.
6. Seema had to sell her house. (End: ....Seema)
- Her house was sold by Seema.
  - Her house had to be sold by Seema.
  - Her house would be sold by Seema.
  - Her house being sold by Seema.
7. The moment the car entered the gate, the little boy ran to greet the guests.  
(Begin: No sooner.....)
- No sooner did the car enter the gate than the little boy ran to greet the guests.
  - No sooner did the car entered the gate than the little boy ran to greet the guests.
  - No sooner did the car enter the gate that the little boy ran to greet the guests.
  - No sooner have the car entered the gate that the little boy ran to greet the guests.
8. As soon as the function got over. The crowd dispersed. (Begin: "Hardly....")
- Hardly had the function got over than the crowd dispersed.
  - Hardly had the crowd dispersed when the function got over.
  - Hardly had the function was getting over when the crowd dispersed.
  - Hardly had the function got over when the crowd dispersed.

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