

# Greenlawn High School, Mumbai

ICSE Preliminary Examination 2025

English Language

10.01.2025

English Paper-1

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) Write a short story which illustrates the truth of the statement, 'No legacy is so rich as honesty.'
- (ii) Your family has gone on a long vacation. There was a short circuit in your house in your absence. Narrate your experience of entering the house, figuring out the problem and repairing the damage.
- (iii) 'Electronic gadgets have made human life effortless.' Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) You were one among the crowd at a concert by a popular rockstar from abroad. Describe the concert and the famous people who attended and performed at the concert and your own reaction to it.
- (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:**

[10]

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

Select **any one** of the following:

- (i) Write a letter to your cousin, who wants to go abroad for further studies, dissuading him/her from doing so and telling him/her about the advantages of studying in India.
- (ii) Write a letter to the Chief Minister of your state, complaining about the lack of green space in your city. Give solutions to solve this issue.

**Question 3:**

- (i) Your school is organising an inter-school dance competition. Write a notice for your school informing the students about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the competition 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:

I was in seventh heaven: I had just been made a cashier! But I was rejoicing over the promotion and the slight increase in salary, nothing more. And I was happy for another reason: on becoming a cashier I suddenly felt as if I were wearing rose-coloured glasses. Everything appeared to have changed. The ugly became beautiful, the wicked, good; the miserly, generous.

On the day of my promotion, even Z. N. Kazusov changed. He was a member of the Board of Directors, a haughty, arrogant man, who always ignored me, as the small fry. He approached me and invited me to visit his family.

On returning home that same day I was *astounded*: Mama served me not the usual two courses at dinner, but four! for tea in the evening there was jam and white bread. Papa ordered a fur coat, bought a new cap, took a mineral-water cure, and began to eat grapes - in winter! Within a few days I received a letter from my brother, who till now could not *endure* me. In his letter he now wrote: "Dear brother, I love you. Within a week I received a telegram: "Thanks. Happy. Send hundred rubles. Most urgent. Embrace you. Yevlampy." I sent the hundred rubles.

A week before the arrest it was suggested that I give a party. What the devil, let them guzzle and gorge, if that is what they want! All those who were shouting and praising me, were whispering behind my back. I saw their smiles and heard their sighs. "He stole it, the crook!" they whispered, grinning maliciously. But their sighing and smirking did not prevent them from eating, drinking, and enjoying themselves. My wife, flashing gold and diamonds, came up to me and whispered: "They are saying that you stole the money, if it is true, I warn you, I cannot go on living with a thief. I will leave!" My brother took some money from me. "If what they are whispering about you is true," said my ethical brother, as he pocketed the money, " Watch out! I will not be a brother to a thief!"



After the party I drove them all to the country in a troika. We finished up at six in the morning, and, as they started up for home, cried out in farewell: "Inspection tomorrow! Thanks!"

My dear ladies and gentlemen, I got caught; or, to state it more fully: yesterday I was respected and honoured on all the sides; today I am a scoundrel and a thief...."

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [3]

1. astounded (line 9)

- (a) awakened
- (b) surprised
- (c) pushed
- (d) aroused

2. endure (line 13)

- (a) help
- (b) neglect
- (c) bear
- (d) hate

- (ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'nibble'?

- (a) increase
- (b) wicked
- (c) gorge
- (d) peck

- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

- (a) Give the immediate consequences of the narrator's promotion. [2]
- (b) What type of a man was Z.N. Kazusov? How did his attitude towards the narrator change on the day the narrator got promoted? [2]
- (c) How did the narrator's mother react to his promotion? [1]
- (d) What did the narrator's brother write to him? How did his brother's greeting show his self-interest? [2]
- (e) What did the narrator realise at the end of the passage? [2]

- (iv) State the attitude of the guests and the narrator's wife at the party. Answer in not more than fifty words. [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) knocked

It was John Stuart Mill who ....0.... (knock) at the door of Thomas Carlyle's house that morning. Carlyle ....1.... (give) the manuscript of his monumental History of the French Revolution, to Mill for his suggestions. Mill's housemaid had used it ignorantly to start a fire.

When Carlyle heard the news his head ....2... (begin) to spin. His life's work which he...3... (do) living in poverty, ....4.... (toil) at it for years was now in ashes. And with the ....5.... (happy) of completed work, he had destroyed all his notes. The shock drained away all of Carlyle's enthusiasm. He would not write any more.

A few days later, he ....6.... (look) out of his window when he noticed a group of

brick-layers ....7.... (erect) the walls of a new building. Brick upon brick, row upon row, they made the building rise.  
That was the ....8.... (encourage) Carlyle needed. He took up his pen and recalled and rewrote word for word, sentence for sentence, page by page, the work that won him an eminent place in literary history.

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

- (a) She has named her children \_\_\_\_\_ Indian cricketers.
- (b) At the sight of his former tenant, he flew \_\_\_ a rage.
- (c) During the President's visit, the entire area was cordoned \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) Reema's honesty is \_\_\_\_\_ suspicion.
- (e) He cut \_\_\_\_\_ on sugar consumption due to diabetes.
- (f) A miser hates parting \_\_\_\_\_ his money.
- (g) He could not muster \_\_\_\_\_ courage to ask for a raise in his salary.
- (h) The employees prefer the new rulers \_\_\_\_\_ the old.

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

1. Here is the lady. Her sister is a chess champion.
  - (a) Here is the lady, whom sister is a chess champion.
  - (b) Here is the lady, who's sister is a chess champion.
  - (c) Here is the lady, whose sister is a chess champion.
  - (d) Here the lady's sister, who is a chess champion.
2. He did not follow protocol. The report said this.
  - (a) The report says he does not follow protocol.
  - (b) The report said that he did not follow protocol.
  - (c) The report claims his not following protocol.
  - (d) The report said that he does not follow protocol.
3. It was a steep hill. We had great difficulty in climbing.
  - (a) We had great difficulty in climbing a steep hill.
  - (b) Climbing off a steep hill was a great difficulty for us.
  - (c) It was greatly difficult to climb a steep hill.
  - (d) It was a great difficulty in climbing a steep hill.
4. Our park has become very dirty it must be cleaned.
  - (a) When our park has become very dirty, it must be cleaned.
  - (b) Since our park has become very dirty, it must be cleaned.
  - (c) Howsoever our park has become very dirty, it must be cleaned.
  - (d) Unless our park has become very dirty, it must be cleaned.

(iv) Choose the correct option. [Please do not cancel an answer or use a whitener.] [8]

1. As soon as we reached the station, the train left.  
(Begin with: *We had hardly....*)
  - (a) We had hardly reached for the station when the train left.
  - (b) We had hardly reached the station when the train left.
  - (c) We had hardly reached the station as the train left.
  - (d) We had hardly reached the station before the train left.



2. No other king was as wise as Ashoka.  
(Use: wiser)  
(a) Ashoka was wiser than any other king.  
(b) No other king is wiser to Ashoka.  
(c) No other king was wiser as Ashoka.  
(d) No other king as wiser as Ashoka was.
3. As soon as he heard the news, he rushed home.  
(Begin: No sooner...)  
(a) No sooner did he heard the news, he rushed home.  
(b) No sooner did he hear the news than he rushed home.  
(c) No sooner than did he hear the news, he rushed home.  
(d) No sooner he hear the news, he rushed home.
4. He was too poor to pay his fees.  
(Begin with: He was so poor....)  
(a) He was so poor to pay his fees.  
(b) He was so poor when he paid fees.  
(c) He was so poor that he could not pay his fees.  
(d) He was so poor that he could pay his fees.
5. Didn't I meet you in the library yesterday?  
(Use a question tag)  
(a) I meet you in the library yesterday, didn't I?  
(b) I met you in the library yesterday, didn't I?  
(c) I did met you in the library yesterday, hadn't I?  
(d) Yesterday I had met in the library, had I?
6. Health is far better than wealth.  
(Use: preferable)  
(a) Preferable is health than wealth.  
(b) Health is preferable to wealth.  
(c) Health is preferable than wealth.  
(d) Preferable is health to wealth.
7. Who is helping you in your studies?  
(Begin with: By whom.....)  
(a) By whom you are been helped in your studies?  
(b) By whom are you helped in your studies?  
(c) By whom are you being helped in your studies?  
(d) By whom have you being given help in your studies?
8. Reena requested Dilip to lend her his pen.  
(Begin with: Reena said, "...")  
(a) Reena said, "Lend me your pen," to Dilip.  
(b) Reena said, " Dilip lend your pen I request."  
(c) Reena said, "Lend me your pen," for Dilip.  
(d) Reena said, "Please lend me your pen, Dilip."