

# Greenlawn's high School, Mumbai

ICSE Preliminary Examination 2026

English Language

Std 10 A/B/C

English Paper-1

09-01-2026

*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 [ ].*

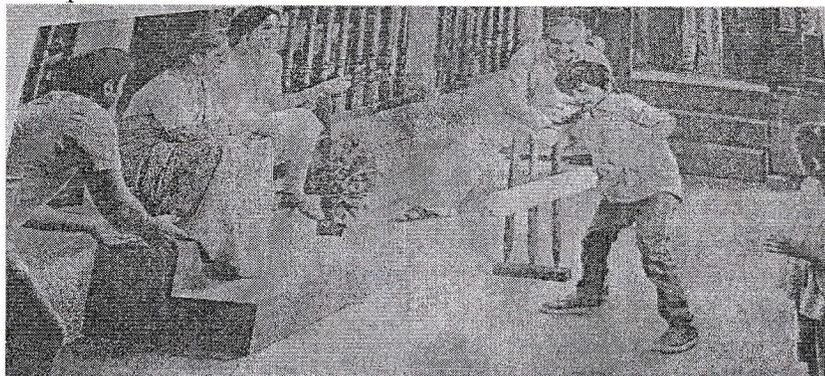
*You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.*

## 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 to illustrate the truth of this statement, 'With faith in yourself, you can achieve anything.'
- (ii) A kind action can go a long way. Narrate an incident, when someone was kind to you at a time when you felt dejected. Give details about the kind action and how this kind act brought a positive transformation in your life.
- (iii) There was a strange incident that occurred when you were enjoying a dish at the roadside eatery. Describe the scene at the roadside eatery before the strange incident, how you reacted to it and what lessons did you learn from it.
- (iv) 'Technology is limiting creativity.' Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (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) You have behaved rudely with a friend. Write a letter to him/ her apologizing for your rude behaviour. Explain what happened and tell him / her what you plan to do to make amends.
- (ii) Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner drawing his/her attention to the open electricity boxes in your area and the danger they pose especially during the monsoon.

**Question 3:**

- (i) Your school is organising an inter-school fashion show where old clothes would be recycled to fashion wear. These clothes would be available for sale after the fashion show. Write a notice informing the students about the event and asking them to register their names for the fashion show. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to a leading fashion designer requesting him/her to be the judge at the fashion show, giving all necessary details. [5]

**Question 4:**

[20]

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

When the half dozen little ones were hungry, old Cleophas would take the fiddle from its flannel bag and play a tune upon it. Perhaps it was to *drown* their cries, or their hunger, or his conscience, or all three. One day Fifine, in a rage, stamped her small foot and clinched her little hands and declared:

"I am surely going to smash the fiddle someday in a thousand pieces!"

"You must not to do that, Fifine," expostulated her father. "That fiddle has been older than you and me put together. You have heard me often tell you about that Italian who had given it to me when he was about to die, long before the war." Cleophas said that the fiddle is a part of his life that is going to live when he is dead. "Well, I am going to do something with that fiddle!" said the daughter.

So once when there was a great fair at the big plantation - no end of ladies and gentleman from the city, riding, driving, dancing, and making music upon all types of instruments. Fifine, with the fiddle in its flannel bag, stole away up to the big house where these festivities were in progress.

No one noticed at first the little barefoot girl seated upon a step of the veranda and watching for her opportunity. "It is one fiddle I got to sell," she announced, *resolutely*, to the first who questioned her. It was very funny to have a shabby little girl sitting there wanting to sell a fiddle, and the child was soon surrounded by people.

The lustreless instrument was brought forth and examined, first with amusement, but soon very seriously, especially by three gentleman: one with very long hair that hung down, another with equally long hair that stood up, the third with no hair worth mentioning.

These three turned the fiddle upside down and almost inside out and examined it. Finally, they sent Fifine away with a fiddle twice as beautiful as the one she had sold, and a roll of money besides!

The child was dumb with astonishment, and away she flew. But when she stopped beneath a big tree, to further scan the role of money, her wonder was redoubled. There was far more than she could count, more than she had ever dreamed of possessing. Certainly enough to top the old cabin with new shingles; to put shoes on all the little barefeet and food into the hungry mouths.

"It is just like you say, Fifine," murmured old Cleophas, huskily. When he played upon the new fiddle that night. "It is one fine fiddle; and it is shining like you say, like satin. But some way or other, it is not the same. Here, Fifine, take it - put it aside. I am not going to play the fiddle anymore."

### QUESTIONS

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

1. drown (*line 2*)

- (a) delight (b) overwhelm (c) patience (d) calmness

2. resolutely (*line 16*)

- (a) firmly (b) rudely (c) seriously (d) adamantly

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word gleaming?

- (a) shabby (b) dumb (c) lustreless (d) bare

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

- (a) To whom did Cleophas play the fiddle? Why? [2]  
(b) For which opportunity was Fifine waiting, which line in the passage states it? [1]  
(c) Describe the customers who wanted to buy the fiddle? What did they give Fifine for the fiddle? [2]  
(d) What did Fifine do soon after selling the fiddle? [2]  
(e) What did Cleophas say when he played upon the new fiddle? [2]

(iv) Describe the attachment Cleophas had for the fiddle. 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: Suraj (0) \_\_\_\_ (look) out of the door.

(0) looked

He (1) \_\_\_\_ (catch) sight of the board (2) \_\_\_\_ (bear) the station's name. He was so (3) \_\_\_\_ (astonish) that he almost (4) \_\_\_\_ (fall) out of the compartment. He was back in his hometown! After (5) \_\_\_\_ (travel) for forty or fifty kilometres, here he (6) \_\_\_\_ (is) home again. He (7) \_\_\_\_ (can) not understand it. He (8) \_\_\_\_ (climb) out of the compartment slowly.

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [4]
- (a) These seats are set ..... for parents.
  - (b) Pupils must look ..... to their teachers as their guides.
  - (c) They were sitting ..... me during dinner.
  - (d) I have disposed .....all my old books.
  - (e) Please do not get carried ..... by these rumours.
  - (f) Music therapy is a cure ..... many ills.
  - (g) Mr. Roy jumped into his car and drove .... as fast as he could.
  - (h) John waited in front .... the school.

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

1. I had left office. My client came later.
  - (a) My client came later than I left office.
  - (b) My client came after I had left office.
  - (c) My client came later when I left office.
  - (d) My client came when I leave office.
2. He whispered something. It was not audible.
  - (a) He whispered something which was inaudible.
  - (b) He whispered something such that it was inaudible.
  - (c) He whispered something since it was inaudible.
  - (d) He whispered something that was audible.
3. He took rest. He resumed his work.
  - (a) Resuming his work, he had taken rest.
  - (b) Having resumed his work, he took rest.
  - (c) Having taken rest, he resumed his work.
  - (d) Being on rest, he resumed his work.
4. Rita was very scared. She could not speak anything.
  - (a) Rita was so scared to speak anything.
  - (b) Rita was hardly scared to speak anything.
  - (c) Rita was too scared to speak anything.
  - (d) Rita was so scared that she could not speak anything.

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

1. If nobody wants it, I will throw it away.  
(Use : Unless)
  - (a) Unless somebody wants it, I will throw it away.
  - (b) Unless somebody want it, I will throw it away.
  - (c) Unless somebody wants it, I would throw it away.
  - (d) Unless somebody wants it, I will threw it away.
2. He said to me, "Are you going away tonight?"  
(Begin with: He inquired...)
  - (a) He inquired if I had been going away this night.
  - (b) He inquired when I were going away that night.
  - (c) He inquired whether I was going away that night.
  - (d) He inquired if I was going away for a night.

3. As soon as I woke up, the milkman rang the bell.  
(Begin with: Hardly...)  
(a) Hardly did I woke up when the milkman rang the bell.  
(b) Hardly had I woken up when the milkman rang the bell.  
(c) Hardly I had woken up when the milkman rang the bell.  
(d) Hardly did I woke up than the milkman rang the bell.
4. It snowed so heavily that we could not drive ahead.  
(Rewrite using 'too')  
(a) It snowed too heavy, to be able to drive ahead.  
(b) It snowed too heavily to be able to drive ahead.  
(c) It snowed too heavily to be able to drove ahead.  
(d) It snowed too heavily to be able to driven ahead.
5. We are preparing for his birthday.  
(Begin with: Preparations ...)  
(a) Preparations are being made by us for his birthday.  
(b) Preparations are to be made for his birthday by us.  
(c) Preparations are in the making by us for his birthday.  
(d) Preparations are on for his birthday by us.
6. We clapped as soon as the Chief Guest arrived.  
(Begin: No sooner...)  
(a) No sooner the Chief Guest arrived, we clapped.  
(b) No sooner had the Chief Guest arrived than we clapped.  
(c) No sooner did the Chief Guest arrived than we clapped.  
(d) No sooner did the Chief Guest was arriving, we clapped.
7. You spoke to Ravi last night.  
(Rewrite using a question tag)  
(a) You do not speak to Ravi last night, didn't you?  
(b) You spoke to Ravi last night, didn't you?  
(c) You speak to Ravi last night, did you?  
(d) You spoke to Ravi last night, did you?
8. Raju is the fastest runner in our school.  
(Begin: No other.....)  
(a) No other runner in our school is fastest as Raju.  
(b) No other runner can run as fast as Raju in our school.  
(c) No other runner in our school is as fast as Raju.  
(d) No other runner in our school is faster to Raju.