

ICSE EXAMINATION PAPER - 2024
ENGLISH PAPER-1
[LANGUAGE]
Class-10th
(Solved)

Time allowed: Two Hours

Max. Marks : 80

General Instructions :

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

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.) [20]

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

- (i) Write an original short story entitled 'A Strange Visitor'.
- (ii) Narrate an incident from your experience in which your parents had entrusted you with a difficult task. Give details of the task, how you carried it out and your feelings at the end.
- (iii) Describe how you spend your time on a holiday afternoon. Why do you think it is necessary to have these times of quietness and solitude?
- (iv) Express your views either for **or** against the statement 'Junk food should be banned'.
- (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

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.) [10]

Select **any one** of the following:

- (i) Your friend was absent from school on a day when an unfortunate incident took place for which you were blamed. Write a letter to your friend giving details about the incident, your role in it and how the matter was finally resolved.

- (ii) You wish to stage a play to create awareness about the importance of saving electricity. Write a letter to the Manager of a nearby shopping mall/supermarket requesting permission to use the space in front of the shopping mall/supermarket to stage the play. Give him/her details about your requirements and state why the play will be beneficial to the shoppers.

Question 3

- (i) Your school is hosting an Inter School Dance Competition. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing the students about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school to request him/her to send their dance teacher to act as a judge for the competition. [5]

Question 4

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

Ashamanja Babu lived in a small flat in Bhowanipore. A clerk in the registry department of Lajpat Rai Post Office, Ashamanja Babu was fortunate as he could walk to his office in seven minutes flat without having to fight his way into the buses and trains of Calcutta. He lived a rather carefree life as he was not the kind of person to sit and brood about what might have been had fate been kinder to him. On the whole, he was quite content with his lot. Two Hindi films and fish twice a week -these were enough to keep him happy. The only thing that *perturbed* him at times was his lack of companionship. A bachelor with few friends and relatives, he often wished he had a dog to keep him company. It need not be a huge Alsatian like the one owned by the Talukdars, who lived two houses down the lane; it could be any ordinary little dog which would follow him around morning and evening, wag its tail when he came home from work and obey his orders faithfully. Ashamanja Babu's secret desires were that he would speak to his dog in English. 'Stand up', 'Sit down', 'Shake hands'—how nice it would be if his dog obeyed such commands! That would make him really happy.

On a cloudy day marked by a steady drizzle, Ashamanja Babu went to the market in Hashimara to buy some oranges. At one end of the market, beside a *stunted* kul tree, sat a man. As their eyes met, the man smiled. Was he a beggar? His clothes made him look like one. Ashamanja Babu noticed at least five sewn-on patches on his trousers and jacket. But the man didn't have a begging bowl. Instead, by his side was a shoe-box with a little pup sticking its head out of it.

'Good morning!' said the man in English. Ashamanja Babu was obliged to return the greeting.

'Buy dog? Dog buy? Very good dog.' The man had taken the pup out of the box and had put it down on the ground. 'Very cheap. Very good. Happy dog.' The pup shook the raindrops off its coat, looked at Ashamanja Babu and wagged its minuscule two-inch tail. Ashamanja Babu moved closer to the pup, crouched on the ground and stretched out his hand. The pup gave his ring finger a lick with its pink tongue. Nice, friendly dog.

'How much? What price?'

'Ten rupees.'

A little haggling and the price came down to seven rupees. Ashamanja Babu paid the money, put the pup back in the shoe-box, closed the lid to save it from the drizzle, and turned homewards, forgetting all about the oranges.

— *Ashamanja Babu's Dog* by Satyajit Ray

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
- perturbed (line 8)
 - frightened
 - unsettled
 - confused
 - mocked
 - stunted (line 19)
 - prevented from growing-
 - prepared for tricks
 - prevented from taking action
 - allowed to do stunts
- (ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'expensive'? [1]
- carefree
 - ordinary
 - cheap
 - haggling
- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:
- What kept Ashamanja Babu happy? [2]
 - What does this tell you about him? [2]
 - What is that one other thing he needed to complete his happiness? [1]
 - Why did Ashamanja Babu think the man was a beggar? [2]
 - Why did Ashamanja Babu forget about his oranges? [2]
- (iv) In not more than 50 words, narrate the series of events from the time the puppy was taken out of the box till it was paid for. [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:

Next day my uncle (0) _____ (spend) alot of time

Answer: (0) spent

He (1) _____ (select) clothes for me, and my aunt (2) _____ (give) my face a scrub and (3) _____ (groom) me. My uncle (4) _____ (follow) me about (5) _____ (utter) several pieces of advice before (6) _____ (let) me out. 'You must never scowl even if the sun (7) _____ (hit) you in the eyes. You must try (8) _____ (look) pleasant.'

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
- There's a black cat sitting _____ the wall.
 - The horse jumped _____ the hedge.
 - Mother goes _____ the market every day.
 - Several people have climbed Mount Everest _____ recent years.
 - I often go to school _____ my friend.
 - I have left my keys _____ home.
 - Instead of talking, prove your worth _____ doing something.
 - I have not slept _____ yesterday.
- (iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. [4]
- The magician took pity on the mouse. He turned it into a cat.
 - Showing pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.
 - Taking pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.
 - The magician turned the mouse into a cat by taking pity.
 - Taking pity on the mouse the magician turned it into a cat.
 - This work must be completed. There is a deadline.
 - Since this work must be completed, there is a deadline.
 - This work must be completed because there is a deadline.
 - This work must be completed though there is a deadline.
 - This work must be completed when there is a deadline.
 - He fled somewhere. His pursuers could not follow him.
 - He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.
 - He pursued somewhere his followers could not flee.
 - He fled somewhere when his pursuers could not follow him.
 - He fled where his pursuers cannot follow him.
 - He began late. He finished first.
 - He finished first and began late.
 - He began first but finished late.
 - Though he finished late, he began first.
 - Though he began late, he finished first.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each.

1. Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain.
(Add a question tag)
 - (a) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, didn't they?
 - (b) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, had they?
 - (c) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, hadn't they?
 - (d) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, did they?
2. The children have broken the window pane.
(Begin: The window pane.....)
 - (a) The window pane had been broken by the children.
 - (b) The window pane has been broken by the children.
 - (c) The window pane has not been broken by the children.
 - (d) The window pane had not been broken by the children.
3. The apples are so cheap that they cannot be good.
(Use: 'too')
 - (a) The apples are too cheap and good.
 - (b) The apples are too cheap as well as good.
 - (c) The apples are too good to be cheap.
 - (d) The apples are too cheap to be good.
4. She is very clever and beautiful.
(Use: 'not only')
 - (a) Not only is she very clever but also beautiful.
 - (b) Not only was she beautiful and she was also clever.
 - (c) Not only is she clever she was also very beautiful.
 - (d) Not only was she very beautiful but is also clever.
5. I prefer a simple vanilla ice cream to fancy desserts.
(Begin: I would rather.....)
 - (a) I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream to fancy desserts.
 - (b) I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.
 - (c) I would rather prefer a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.
 - (d) I would rather have a vanilla ice cream than a fancy dessert.
6. He asked, "When do you intend to make the payment?"
(Begin: He asked.....)
 - (a) He asked when he did intend to make the payment.
 - (b) He asked when she is intending to make the payment.
 - (c) He asked when I intended to make the payment.
 - (d) He asked when they are intending to make the payment.
7. If the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
(Begin: Unless....)
 - (a) Unless the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
 - (b) Unless Mariam does the laundry, the rain will not stop.
 - (c) Unless the rain stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
 - (d) Unless the rain stops, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
8. This is the best movie I have ever seen.
(Begin: Never...)
 - (a) Never had I seen a good movie than this.
 - (b) Never I have seen a better movie than this.
 - (c) Never have I seen a better movie than this.
 - (d) I have never seen a good movie as this.

Answers

1. (i) A Strange Visitor

One chilly autumn evening, as I sat by the fireplace, fascinated in my favourite book, a knock echoed through the silent house. Surprised, I opened the door to find a peculiar figure standing on the doorstep.

The stranger was tall and veiled in shadows, with piercing blue eyes that seemed to hold secrets of ancient lands. He introduced himself as Orion, a traveller from a distant realm beyond the stars. Intrigued by his enigmatic presence, I invited him inside.

As the night unfolded, Orion shared tales of mythical creatures and forgotten realms, captivating me with his mesmerising stories. However, as dawn approached, he revealed the true reason for his visit. He sought an artefact hidden within the village, a key to unlocking portals to other worlds.

Determined to aid my newfound friend, I embarked on a quest to locate the elusive artefact. With each clue we untied, we encountered challenges that tested our courage and wit. Through dark forests and treacherous mountains, we persevered, driven by the promise of adventure.

Finally, we reached the ancient ruins where the artefact lay hidden. With bated breath, I unlocked the secrets of the past, unleashing a surge of magic that illuminated the night sky. As Orion bid farewell, he bestowed upon me a gift – a star-shaped pendant that shimmered with otherworldly energy.

As dawn broke, I watched as Orion vanished into the horizon, leaving behind a trail of stardust. Though our encounter was fleeting, the memories of our adventure would linger in my heart forever. And as I gazed up at the vast expanse of the night sky, I knew that I was destined for many more extraordinary adventures yet to come.

- (ii) When I was fifteen, my parents entrusted me with the challenging task of organising a charity event for our local community. The event aimed to raise funds for a children's hospital in need of financial support. Initially overwhelmed by the responsibility, I took a systematic approach to tackle the task.

Firstly, I researched successful charity events for inspiration and devised a detailed plan outlining the logistics, budget, and fund raising strategies. Next, I assembled a dedicated team of volunteers, assigning roles and responsibilities according to each individual's strengths. With meticulous planning and coordination, we secured sponsors, booked a venue, and curated a diverse range of entertainment activities to attract attendees. As the event date approached, I juggled numerous

tasks, from promoting the event on social media to collaborate with vendors and ensuring everything was in place.

On the day of the event, a wave of nerves washed over me as I watched the community gather to support our cause. Despite the initial apprehension, seeing the enthusiasm and generosity of the attendees filled me with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

As the event drew to a culmination, I felt a mixture of exhaustion and happiness. Counting the donations, I was amazed by the overwhelming response we had received. The funds raised would make a significant difference in improving the lives of children in need of medical care.

Reflecting on the experience, I realised the invaluable lessons I had learned about leadership, teamwork and the power of community. Despite the challenges, the opportunity to make a positive impact filled me with a profound sense of fulfilment. It was a reminder that with determination and perseverance, even the most daunting tasks can be overcome.

- (iii) On a holiday afternoon, I often seek solace in the tranquillity of nature. I enjoy taking long walks amidst lush greenery, listening to the melodious chirping of birds and the gentle rustle of leaves. As I wander along winding pathways, I find myself immersed in the beauty of the natural world, free from the distractions of everyday life.

During these moments of quietness and solitude, I reflect on the past week's events, contemplating the highs and lows, and setting intentions for the days ahead. The peaceful surroundings provide a much-needed discontinuation from the hustle and bustle of daily routines, allowing me to recharge and rejuvenate my mind, body, and spirit.

I believe it is essential to carve out time for quietness and solitude amidst the chaos of modern life. In today's fast-paced world, we are constantly bombarded with provocation, leaving little room for introspection and self-discovery. By embracing moments of solitude, we can reconnect with our inner selves, gaining clarity and perspective on life's journey.

Moreover, solitude fosters creativity and innovation, providing fertile ground for new ideas to flourish. In the silence of solitude, our minds are free to wander, exploring uncharted territories and uncovering hidden insights. It is during these moments of quiet contemplation that we often experience breakthroughs and astonishment, leading to personal growth and self-realisation.

In essence, times of quietness and solitude are essential for nurturing the soul, fostering self-awareness, and cultivating inner peace. By embracing moments of solitude, we can tap into the depths of our being, uncovering hidden truths and embarking on a journey of self-discovery.

(iv) Ban on Junk Food:

FOR

In today's society, the prevalence of junk food poses a significant threat to public health. The high levels of unhealthy fats, sugars and additives found in these products contribute to a range of health issues, including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Advocates for banning junk food argue that such measures are necessary to address the escalating rates of these diet-related diseases. By prohibiting the sale and consumption of junk food in schools and public places, we can create environments that promote healthier eating habits and lifestyles from a young age. Moreover, banning junk food would protect vulnerable populations, particularly children, from the harmful effects of unhealthy dietary choices, ensuring that they have access to nutritious foods that support their growth and development.

Beyond health concerns, the environmental impact of junk food production and consumption is also significant. The excessive packaging and waste generated by the junk food industry contribute to environmental degradation and climate change. By reducing the demand for and consumption of junk food through a ban, we can promote sustainability and reduce our ecological footprint. Additionally, banning junk food can lead to positive social change by challenging the cultural norms and marketing tactics that perpetuate unhealthy eating habits. By prioritising public health over corporate profits, we can pave the way for a healthier future for generations to come, reducing the burden on healthcare systems and improving overall quality of life.

AGAINST

While the intentions behind banning junk food may be noble, opponents argue that such measures infringe upon individual freedoms and fail to address the root causes of poor dietary habits. Banning junk food restricts personal autonomy and choice, denying individuals the right to make decisions about their own diet. Furthermore, the junk food industry plays a significant role in the economy, providing employment opportunities and contributing to economic growth. A ban on junk food could lead to job losses and economic instability, particularly in communities reliant on this industry.

Instead of resorting to bans, efforts should focus on education, awareness and regulation to empower individuals to make healthier choices

while preserving personal freedoms and economic stability. Additionally, it's essential to recognise that simply banning junk food may not address underlying issues such as food insecurity, lack of access to healthy options, and socioeconomic disparities in health outcomes. Therefore, a more comprehensive approach that addresses these systemic issues is necessary to promote public health and well-being effectively.

- (v)** The picture of four impoverished children engrossed in a game of carom, meticulously crafted on soil, evokes a poignant narrative of resilience, creativity, and the universal joy found in simple pleasures amidst adversity.

In the midst of their humble surroundings, where material wealth is scarce, these children have ingeniously transformed a patch of soil into their playground and a source of endless entertainment. The intricately drawn carom board, etched with care and precision, reflects their resourcefulness and ability to find joy in the simplest of things. Despite their economic hardships, their spirits remain unbroken as they immerse themselves in the timeless game, their laughter echoing through the air like music.

As they flick the striker with precision, their faces light up with determination and companionship, each move a testament to their resilience and tenacity in the face of adversity. In their world, there are no barriers or limitations—only boundless imagination and the unwavering bond of friendship that transcends material wealth.

The picture serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring human spirit and the capacity to find happiness in the most unexpected places. It speaks to the resilience of the human heart, which can transform even the harshest of circumstances into moments of joy and connection. In a world often overshadowed by materialism and greed, these children remind us of the true essence of happiness—the simple joy of being together, creating memories, and finding solace in each other's company.

In the end, the picture of the four children playing carom on soil is not merely a depiction of poverty but a celebration of the invincible human spirit and the resilience that enables us to find beauty, happiness, and meaning in the most unlikely of places. It urges us to cherish the moments of connection, to embrace the simple pleasures of life, and to find hope and inspiration in the face of adversity.

- 2. (i)** 21, Park Avenue
New Delhi
January 15, 20XX

Hi Ravi,

I hope this letter reaches you in good spirits. There's been quite a whirlwind at school lately, and I wanted

to fill you in, on what went down while you were away. So, it all started last Tuesday during lunch break. A massive food fight erupted in the cafeteria, and chaos occurred. It seemed like every student was tossing food left and right, and soon enough, the entire place looked like a battlefield of mashed potatoes and ketchup. I tried my best to stay out of the fray, but somehow, I ended up getting blamed for instigating the whole thing.

As the food fight escalated, teachers rushed in to break it up, and that's when things got even crazier. Amidst the commotion, someone pointed fingers at me, claiming I was the one who started the whole mess. Despite my protests and attempts to explain, it was like nobody was listening. I could feel the weight of the accusations bearing down on me, and it was all the more frustrating knowing you weren't there to vouch for me.

Thankfully, after what felt like an eternity of being in the hot seat, the truth finally came to light. Some security footage from the cafeteria cameras surfaced, showing that I was nowhere near the scene when the food fight broke out. With the evidence in hand, the school authorities had no choice but to clear my name of any wrongdoing. It was a huge relief, but the whole ordeal definitely taught me the importance of having solid evidence and friends who've got your back.

Hope you're doing well and can't wait to catch up when you're back at school.

Your's truly,
Prem

(ii) 18, Mayur Plaza
New Delhi
10 Dec. 20XX

To,
The Manager
City Mall
New Delhi

Sir,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. We are a local community initiative dedicated to raising awareness about environmental conservation, particularly the importance of saving electricity.

I am reaching out to request permission to use the space in front of city mall to stage a play on the theme of electricity conservation. Our proposed play aims to engage and educate shoppers about simple yet effective ways to reduce their energy consumption and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Here are some details about our requirements for staging the play:

- 1. Date and Time:** We are planning to stage the play on January 15th, 20XX at 5:00 p.m. We believe that this timing will attract a significant number of shoppers and maximise the impact of our message.
- 2. Space Requirements:** We would require a designated area in front of the mall, preferably with access to electricity for sound equipment and lighting. The space should be large enough to accommodate our performers and audience comfortably.
- 3. Duration:** The duration of the play will be approximately one and half hour, including set below.
- 4. Equipment:** We will bring our own props, costumes, and sound equipment. However, if there are any specific requirements or restrictions regarding the use of space and equipment, please let us know in advance.

We believe that staging the play in front of the Mall will be beneficial to the shoppers in several ways. Firstly, it will provide them with valuable information and practical tips on how they can save electricity in their daily lives, thereby reducing their energy bills and environmental footprint. Additionally, the interactive and entertaining nature of the play will capture the attention of shoppers of all ages and backgrounds, ensuring that the message reaches a wide audience.

Furthermore, by hosting community events such as ours, City Mall demonstrates its commitment to corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability. Your support in providing us with the space to stage the play will not only benefit the local community but also enhance the reputation of the mall as a socially conscious and environmentally friendly establishment.

We assure you that we will take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the premises during and after the event. We are also open to discussing any additional terms or conditions that you may have regarding the use of the space.

Thank you for considering our request. We are excited about the possibility of collaborating with city mall to raise awareness about electricity conservation and inspire positive change in our community. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to connect.

We look forward to your favourable response.

Warm regards,

Anshul Bansal

3. (a) (i)

<p>Ready to Dance</p> <p>DOON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL</p> <p>NOTICE</p> <p>Event: Inter School Dance Competition</p> <p>Date: 15th March 2024</p> <p>Time: 10 a.m. onward</p> <p>Vanue: School Auditorium</p> <p>Participate: All th students of class VI-XII</p>
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(ii) principalDPSschool@gmail.com

Sub: Invitation to Judge the dance competition of our school.

Sir/Ma'am,

I hope this email finds you well. We are organising an Inter-School Dance Competition at Delhi Public School and would be honored to have your school's dance teacher as a judge for the event.

Your expertise in dance education is well-known, and we believe your presence would greatly enrich the competition and provide valuable feedback to our students.

If you are able to nominate your dance teacher as a judge, we would be grateful. Please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for considering our request.

Best regards,

Rijak Chahal
(Dance Teacher),
Doon International School

4. (i) 1. (b) unsettled

2. (a) prevented from growing

(ii) (c) cheap

(iii) (a) **Ashamanja** Babu found solace and happiness in the simple routine of watching Hindi films twice a week, which provided him with entertainment and a temporary escape from the monotony of daily life. The colourful narratives and lively music of the films served as a source of joy and relaxation for him, allowing him to momentarily forget any worries or concerns he may have had.

(b) This suggests that Ashamanja Babu was content with his modest lifestyle and possessed a resilient and optimistic outlook on life. Despite not having lavish possessions or a bustling social life, he was able to derive satisfaction from the small pleasures and routines of his everyday existence. His ability to appreciate the simple joys of life demonstrates his inner gladness and acceptance of his circumstances.

(c) Despite leading a relatively content life, Ashamanja Babu yearned for companionship and a sense of connection with another being. His desire for a dog as a companion indicates a longing for unconditional love and companionship, as well as a need for emotional support and affection. The presence of a loyal puppy companion would not only provide him with companionship but also fulfill his need for a deeper bond and connection with another living being.

(d) Ashamanja Babu initially assumed the man sitting beside the stunted kul tree was a beggar due to his appearance and patched clothing. The numerous patches on the man's trousers and jacket gave the impression of someone who may be down on their luck and in need of assistance. However, upon closer observation, Ashamanja Babu noted that the man did not possess a begging bowl typically associated with beggars, leading him to reassess his initial assumption.

(e) As Ashamanja Babu interacted with the man and the puppy, he became completely engrossed in the prospect of purchasing the adorable puppy companion. His focus shifted entirely to the negotiation and acquisition of the puppy, causing him to forget his original intention of buying oranges at the market. The allure of having a loyal and affectionate pet overshadowed any other concerns or priorities he may have had at that moment.

(iv) Amidst a bustling market, Ashamanja Babu encountered a man with a puppy. Despite initial assumptions, he engaged in negotiations and bought the puppy for seven rupees. Captivated by the puppy's affection, he forgot his purpose of buying oranges, finding unexpected companionship and joy in the rainy day's encounter.

5. (i) (1) selected

(2) gave

(3) groomed

(4) followed

(5) uttered

(6) letting

(7) hits

(8) to look/looking

(ii) (a) on

(b) over

(c) to

(d) in

(e) with

(f) at

(g) by

(h) since

- (iii) 1. (b) Taking pity on the mouse, he turned it into a cat.
2. (b) This work must be completed because there is a deadline.
3. (a) He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.
4. (d) Though he began late, he finished first.
- (iv) 1. (c) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, hadn't they?
2. (a) The windowpane had been broken by the children.
3. (d) The apples are too cheap to be good.
4. (a) Not only is she very clever but also beautiful.
5. (b) I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.
6. (c) He asked when I intended to make the payment.
7. (a) Unless the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
8. (c) Never have I seen a better movie than this.