

ISC EXAMINATION

ENGLISH PAPER-1

Solved Paper - 2023

Class-12th

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Three hours

Candidates are **allowed additional 15 minutes for only** reading the paper. They must NOT start writing during this time.

Attempt all four questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

(You are advised to spend not more than 45 minutes on Question 1,

55 minutes on Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and

50 minutes on Question 4.)

(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)

1. Write a composition (in approximately 400–450 words) on **any one** of the following subjects: [20]
(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of the matter, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)
 - (i) You had to cycle home through the town on the day of a festival. Describe the sights, the sounds and the mood of the people around you. What were your feelings at the end of the ride?
 - (ii) Life is a series of choices that we make every day. Narrate an incident when you had to make a difficult choice. Elaborate on the positive impact it had on you.
 - (iii) A college degree is needed to succeed in life. Argue **FOR** or **AGAINST** this statement.
 - (iv) Humour
 - (v) One cannot always get what one wants and sometimes it is for the best. Present your reflections on this statement.
 - (vi) Write an original short story that begins with the following words:
My mother stopped suddenly at the doorway and stared in amazement at
2. (i) You are the editor of your school magazine. You want to bring about awareness among the students on the topic — Noise pollution: A threat to all life forms. Write an article in about 300 words based on the following points:
Causes of noise pollution — effects on humans — effects on other living creatures — measures to reduce noise pollution — role of authorities — conclusion. [15]
 - (ii) As a member of the Student Council of your school, you wish to set up a Food Club to promote healthy eating habits among students. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, outlining the steps that you will take to make this club a success. [10]
3. Answer sections (i), (ii) and (iii).
 - (i) In each of the following items, sentence **I** is complete, while sentence **II** is not. Complete sentence **II**, making it as similar as possible to sentence **I**. Write sentence **II** in each case. [5]
Example:
 - (I) The heavy showers of rain revived the plants.
 - (II) The plantsAnswer: (z) The plants were revived by the heavy showers of rain.
 - (a) (I) Sushil's attitude towards work has always puzzled me.
(II) I have
 - (b) (I) As soon as I solved one problem, the teacher gave me another.
(II) No sooner
 - (c) (I) He was too gentle to have committed the crime.
(II) He was so
 - (d) (I) Not only was he a famous actor but also a renowned director.
(II) Besides

- (e) (I) Robin said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening."
 (II) Robin said _____

(ii) **Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.)** [5]

- (a) The judge turned _____ the defendant's appeal for a postponement.
 (b) He turned _____ for the programme earlier than usual.
 (c) There is an urgent need _____ a bus stop in this village.
 (d) He has poor eyesight and is in need _____ glasses.
 (e) The speeding driver was asked to pull _____ by the traffic police.
 (f) She is very ill, but the doctors think she will pull _____.
 (g) She set _____ a little money each week for the child's education.
 (h) I would not even know how to set _____ mending a watch.
 (i) One should not give _____ hope despite the hurdles.
 (j) The mother gave _____ to the persistent demands of her child.

(iii) **Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage but write the verbs in the correct order.** [5]

The rain approached like a dark curtain. I _____ (1) (see) it marching down the street, heavy and remorseless. It _____ (2) (drum) on the tin roof and swept across the road and over the balcony of my room. I _____ (3) (sit) there without _____ (4) (move), letting the rain soak my sticky shirt and gritty hair.

Outside, the street rapidly _____ (5) (empty). Buses, cars and bullock carts _____ (6) (plough) through the suddenly rushing water. A group of small boys came jumping along a side street, which was like a river in spate. A garland of marigolds, swept off the steps of a temple, came _____ (7) (float) down the middle of the road.

The rain _____ (8) (stop) as suddenly as it had begun. The day was _____ (9) (end), and the breeze _____ (10) (remain) cool and moist.

4. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions (i), (ii) and (iii) that follow:**

- (1) Something happens to cats after we have enjoyed a delicious meal. Call it a feline sugar hit or a rush of good feeling. Abandoning our usually sedentary nature, we transform into crazy beasts who thunder down corridors, spring from one piece of furniture to another, or pounce from behind half-closed doors to attack the shoelaces of unsuspecting passersby. It is as though we are temporarily possessed. [4]
- (2) That, at least, is my excuse, dear reader and the only explanation I can offer for my entirely unplanned global TV debut. [4]
- (3) To be fair, I had no way of knowing that my master was receiving visitors that particular afternoon. Nor that he was being interviewed live, let alone by one of 10 America's most famous journalists. [8]
- (4) All I knew was that a few minutes after gorging myself on a favourite treat of creamy pudding, I felt that sudden, primal explosion of energy. I made my way back to the suite of rooms that I shared with my master and felt an overpowering compulsion to do something completely mad. I wanted to run like a furious jungle cat, at that particular moment. [12]
- (5) Bursting through the door of the room in which my master received visitors, I tore up the carpet as I raced towards the sofa opposite where he was sitting. I ripped its fabric as I scrambled up its side like a savage creature clawing its way up a perilous cliff. Then with a final, frenzied burst, I launched myself off one arm of the sofa, leaping towards the other. [16]
- (6) It was only at this point that I realised the sofa was occupied by the journalist. She was halfway through a sentence and my abrupt appearance caught my master's guest completely by surprise. [21]
- (7) You know, when something truly unexpected happens, time can seem to slow down. Well, that's how it was. As I flew past the woman's face, her expression turned from one of calm engagement to that of total surprise. [21]
- (8) As she pushed back in her seat to avoid me, the shock on her face could not have been more evident. [26]
- (9) But, dear reader, she was not more shaken than me. I had not been expecting anyone on the sofa, let alone a TV celebrity, nor one who was mid-interview. As I headed towards the opposite end of the sofa, for the first time I observed the lighting, the cameras and the crew watching the action from the shadows. By the time I landed on the other arm of the sofa, all the energy that had propelled me was gone. [26]
- (10) I was, no longer, a furious jungle cat. [26]
- (11) The journalist looked at me. I looked at her. Both of us were taking in what had just happened. I was also conscious of the cameras still rolling as well as many pairs of eyes watching me at that moment. My moment of global glory. [30]

Adapted from: *The Dalai Lama's Cat Omnibus*
 By David Michie

- (i) (a) Given below are three words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [3]
- (1) inactive
 - (2) eating in a greedy manner
 - (3) dangerous
- (b) For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least ten words using the same word unchanged in form but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage: [3]
- (1) thunder (line 2)
 - (2) spring (line 3)
 - (3) past (line 20)
- (ii) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:
- (a) What is the usual nature of the narrator's kind? How is it differently presented in the passage? [2]
 - (b) What did the 'favourite treat of creamy pudding' do to the narrator? [2]
 - (c) Describe the actions of the narrator after bursting into the visitors' room. [2]
 - (d) How did the journalist react when the narrator 'flew past' her face? [2]
- (iii) Summarise how the narrator became a global celebrity (paragraphs 4 to 11). You are required to write the summary in the form of a connected passage in about 100 words. Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. [6]

ANSWERS

1. (i) It was a long day at school. My finals were approaching and I had been pretty tense about the same. Well, academically, I've always been on the bright side of the spectrum, but lately, my performance has spiralled downward and a middle-school student can only expect little from his parents. My mom found my scores last week and what happened after that is a completely different story altogether. I desperately needed a break, so I took my bicycle and went for a quick ride around the town. Usually, my locality is very still and peaceful, but October, the time for Diwali, is quite exciting. Diwali is one of the biggest Hindu festivals celebrated in India; it's commonly known as the 'Festival of Lights' and is celebrated by lighting *diyas* (oil lamps) and candles, setting off fireworks and decorating homes and streets with colourful lights and *rangolis*.

It was a mesmerising view. My usually bleak neighbourhood was suddenly very lively and vibrant. It was decorated with lights and lanterns, casting a warm glow on the festivities. There were too many shops to count and people kept flooding in, donning their best attires. Sales people were chanting about items that they had on sale as they looked forward to earn huge profits on the biggest festival of the year. They were screaming hard to sell off fast so that they can spend time with their families. Diwali isn't just a festival; it marks the homecoming of Lord Rama from his 14 years long exile and signifies the victory of good over evil. The street was bustling with energy and life and even the elderly and lethargic gathered in their balconies to watch the commotion. Old friends and relatives paid visits and exchanged gifts and pleasantries. The smell of incense, sweet treats and aromatic oils filled the air. Children were running and playing with sparklers, filling the night with streams of light. The sound of firecrackers could be heard in the background, adding to the festive mood. Brightly lit homes and shops were adorned with intricate *rangolis*, creating a colourful mosaic along the street. I greeted and wished all the elders and the kids in the street and grabbed my favourite sweet from a nearby shop. I hopped on my bicycle and rushed back home to change into the new *kurta*, my mom had got for me. Diwali is the time for sharing happiness, harmony and prosperity. Keeping that in mind, I expressed how grateful I am for my family and all the blessings I have. I suddenly felt more confidence surging in me and it encouraged me to work harder towards my dreams. I had never imagined that a small ride on my bicycle could make me feel so refreshing.

- (ii) Life is a series of choices that we make every day and everything that happens to us in our lives is a consequence of our choices. They may vary from making a choice of going to gym daily, eating all the greens, adopting a morning walk routine, quitting bad habits or retiring to bed early. The choices we make may either make us happy, sad or apathetic. Once it happened with me also when I had to make a difficult choice and it had a great impact on my life.

My father got transferred to another city when I was in IX standard. I was well settled in my old school and the thought of changing the school at this stage was threatening. It was a very strange kind of feeling when I learnt about it for the very first time. I was really upset as I was going to miss my old house as well as my school and particularly my friends and teachers. I was not ready to leave the school as I was comfortable there. Moreover, I had been in that school since the very beginning of my school life and was so accustomed to the system that I couldn't even imagine of going to any other school. But I was left with no other choice than to leave the school as my mother was also accompanying my father and there was nobody to look after me in the city. It was the worst phase of my life when I had to make the most difficult choice of my life.

I began to have nightmares about getting used to the new timetable, new routine, new teachers and new classmates. Ultimately, we moved to a new place and I got admitted into a new school. It was a fresh start for me. My new school was very different from the earlier one. I felt very weird on the first day. The building of the new school was very big. When I entered the classroom, I was afraid of the new atmosphere. But soon that fear disappeared because I found everyone to be quite amicable. The teachers of my new school were also cooperative and helpful and asked the other students to assist me with everything. The students helped me in my pending work as I had shifted in the middle of the session. I liked the teaching style of the teachers very much. My anxiety completely vanished and I started loving the school very much. It left a positive impact on my thought process too.

Thus, it is rightly said that life is full of complications and until and unless you have not ventured out of your comfort zone, you can never explore the world.

- (iii) **'A College Degree is needed to succeed in Life'**

For the Statement:

Respected Principal Sir/Madam, honourable judges and my dear friends, today I feel privileged to speak on the topic 'A College Degree is needed to succeed in Life' and I'm here to present my views for the motion.

With great education comes great opportunities to live a happy and successful life. A college education is now as valuable as a high school education was decades ago. A college education is the cornerstone of a secure

future. There are numerous reasons why a college education is so crucial and required nowadays.

People who complete a college education have a better chance of obtaining a better job than those who do not complete a college education. This feature alone ensures that the college graduate will have a better quality of life. In today's environment, most employers prefer to hire candidates who have a college degree or some form of technical certification. People who do not have a college diploma are limited to the manufacturing and construction industries. While it is possible that a person with only a high school diploma may get recruited for a job that pays well and provide great benefits, a college graduate is more likely to achieve it. People without a college degree have limited options when it comes to jobs and incomes, while those with a degree have a variety of options and can earn much more. To get a college degree is tough for most people, but it is well worth the effort in the long term.

A college degree equips one with the necessary tools to compete for jobs in the global market. The most significant aspect of receiving a college degree is having a diploma that verifies that one is qualified to perform a specific job. College students get a lot of exposure in their respective fields and develop skillsets, which can be useful to them in acquiring jobs. The college environment is organised; successful students can adapt to this culture, meet deadlines, and stay on the target with a variety of activities going on around them. So, obtaining a college degree proves that a student has the ability to meet deadlines, operate under pressure and generate quality work. These are the three abilities that many employers seek.

To conclude, college graduates have better incomes and access to healthcare facilities which ensures a healthy and productive lifestyle. A college degree does not guarantee success, but it does increase the likelihood of success. A graduate, who is dedicated, hardworking and consistent, will almost certainly have a successful job. Obtaining a college degree and becoming successful involves hard work, diligent study habits, time and attention, but it is all worthwhile as a good education promises a bright future.

Against the Statement:

Respected Principal Sir/Madam, honourable judges and my dear friends. Today I feel privileged to speak on the topic 'A College Degree is needed to succeed in Life' and I'm here to present my views against the motion.

The key to a successful life is the purpose, determination, hard work and consistency towards your work. When it comes to what a college degree entails, it is essentially a certification. A degree is a piece of paper which certifies that you have met a specified level of academic success. However, what occurs in the classroom does not always translate into the real world.

Everyone in their lives has probably heard about the importance of having a college education. Family members, relatives, teachers and even some friends extol going to college, and securing a nine-to-five job, as the only means of leading a happy and successful life. A college degree marks a guaranteed stable future, as every job and every company requires a degree from a reputed college, and everyone makes it seem like there is no alternative to this. It takes a great deal of courage and motivation to break out of this stereotype and make a unique identity about oneself. A college degree does not always guarantee a decent wage or a job. Success is defined by many factors that are often learned outside schools and colleges, and it is the presence of those skills in a person that recruiters look for.

When looking at the bigger picture, being educated is different from having a degree. Anyone can get a college degree these days just by cramming up the courses and clearing the exams, but being educated means gaining the necessary experience, learning from failures and implementing ideas rather than learning them. Education can be formal, informal, self-taught, on-the-job training and professional licenses and certifications. It is simple to dismiss the icons like Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Paul Allen, Walt Disney and Dhiru Bhai Ambani who did not complete a standard four-year degree program. One can only imagine the amount of hard work, training, practice and study they had to go through to achieve their success.

A university degree is undoubtedly important in professions like engineering, medicine, or law. However, it is not required to become a really good businessman, a sportsperson, or a movie star. Success in life can be attained in a variety of ways. Many magazines and television shows portray success as having a lot of money, fulfilling work and being powerful. Most religious and spiritual organisations, on the other hand, argue that success entails attaining spiritual contentment and being at peace with God and with oneself.

In conclusion, everyone has different definitions of success. Some focus on the educational aspect, while some focus on their relationships. A college degree may help you achieve success professionally; however, it cannot account for success in life.

(iv) Humour

Humour is totally exclusive to human beings as no other creature on earth is blessed with the boon of humour. Humans are distinguished from all other animals by the faculty of laughter. Laughter is the best medicine which is very rewarding and a healthy exercise. People, possessing a sense of humour, live a longer and a meaningful life.

Such men and women are far better equipped to face the challenges, strains, stresses and worries of the present-day world. During periods of extreme stress and strain, their sense of laughter and humour works like a wonderful medicine to relieve them of these nerve-wracking phenomenon. To laugh and make others laugh is a big charity. Such people are in great demand and very popular. But it is not a joke to laugh or smile and see it being reflected on the faces of others. It is a rare quality found in people. It is an essential element of success as well.

Humour relieves tension, heaviness, monotony and boredom and creates a congenial, light, friendly and jovial atmosphere. In moments of great stress, a moment of humour is like a drought of cool and fragrant breeze during hot summer. Occasional and timely humour refreshes, energises and invigorates us as much that nothing else can do. Then there is more oxygen intake, more blood circulation and relaxation of muscles and the brain. The psychological and medical benefits besides the social value of laughter are immense. Cartoonists, jokers, authors, etc. enjoy a very handsome living after making others laugh. Laughter is much sought after these days when life has become so complex, difficult, mechanical and materialistic.

Instructions become more effective and lasting when combined with entertainment. Which is why all the great and good speakers have been witty and humorous. They often use amusing definitions, witty comments, anecdotes, appropriate short jokes and comic illustrations in between their solemn lectures and talks. They create opportunities to use these valuable means and tools of laughter during their speeches. In conversation also, these great men habitually make a liberal use of humour as a tool. Humour can be used as a convenient and great tool to cool down heated exchanges and quarrels. It is a very good means to influence people and win favours and friends.

- (v) One cannot always get what one wants and sometimes it is for the best.

Since the very beginning, I wanted to become an artist and so I decided to take up Humanities stream. But my parents and friends ridiculed me as they thought that pursuing my career in art will lead me nowhere due to pertaining competition in the art industry. My parents wanted me to take Science as they were of the view that I should become a doctor, which in my opinion was none other than a rat race. The matter was too critical as neither did I want to go against my parents' wish nor I wanted to sacrifice my passion. Finally, I had to give up and abide by their choice. I opted for the Science stream and joined the classes unwillingly. My dreams were shattered and my whole spirit was dampened. It was really difficult for me to move to a different track. But with passing of time, I began to adjust in that atmosphere and gradually my attitude towards rat race changed. I started becoming familiar with the course and started taking interest in it. I could see that there are better future prospects in Science as compared to the Humanities stream.

There are several key steps for becoming a good scientist and cultivating your ability to make positive contributions to the scientific community and potentially, to the world. I felt that experimenting with new ideas is very interesting. Science is all inclusive and very comprehensive. It touches the human life in several ways. In the field of medicine, nutrition and surgery, Science has excelled. When I look back at my initial choice of becoming an artist, I find that there is a limited scope in this area owing to widely growing field, where if one has not excelled, he is left with nothing. Whereas in Science, there are multiple opportunities like- if I didn't get through in the medical exam, I could opt for other subsidiary fields which include Food Engineer, Dietician, Pathologist, Audiologist, etc. Thus, I think that the choice which I have made now, although it was imposed upon me, is the best.

- (vi) My mother stopped suddenly at the doorway and stared in amazement at the condition of the room. She saw all the things displaced from their original position. The cupboards were opened and all their belongings were lying on the floor, even the television was on. The water was also overflowing from the bucket as the tap lay open. My mother couldn't understand what had happened in the house. In the morning, she had read about many news of robbery, kidnapping, etc., in the newspaper. So she felt very frightened. She searched each and every room, but found no one except silence. My mother tried to call me, but my phone kept ringing in my room only. She went to my neighbour, Mr. Gore's house and asked whether they knew anything, but she got no information from them. She then decided to call my relatives, but just then, a car came to the door of our house and someone started honking repeatedly.

She quickly rushed to the door to see who it was and to her astonishment, she found my father standing there. He was equally surprised to see her.

After an initial moment of shock and surprise, she asked him where he had been all this while. My father mentioned that he had received a call from a man who informed him that someone was knocked down by a car near the house. The stranger, who called up, got my father's number from the identity card the injured person was carrying. My father got panicked thinking that it was my mother who had met with an accident. In fear and panic, leaving things as they were, my father rushed to the spot near our house only to find that the injured person had been taken to a nearby hospital. Reaching the hospital, he found that the person was a boy and his condition was serious and an operation was the need of the hour. The boy, then, was in the Operation Room fighting against death. My father waited till the operation was over. After the operation, the

doctor came out with a smile and announced that the surgery was successful and the boy will soon recover. He took a sigh of relief and then rushed back home thinking that my mother would be waiting for him. Finally, finding her safe and sound, added to his happiness. After hearing his narrative, my mother explained that she had forgotten her I-card with one of her colleagues and that colleague was the same person who met with an accident when he was coming to return back her I-card.

2. (i) **Noise pollution: A threat to all the life forms:**

by: XYZ

Noise pollution is an issue which is a matter of grave concern for all of us. It can cause health problems for the people, the marine life and the wildlife too. There are several causes of noise pollution ranging from traffic horns to loud music of orchestra bands, machinery at the construction sites, loud noise of the stray animals, blaring industrial generators and various explosions of fire crackers, etc. These noise pollutants can have deleterious effects which can cause hearing loss because sound which is measured in decibels, if reaches 85 decibels or higher than that, can harm a person's hearing capacity. Not only hearing ability is affected, but loud noise may result in stress, sleep disorder, heart disease and high blood pressure.

Even aquatic animals do not remain unaffected by these inescapable and disturbing sounds. Noise from ships, oil drills, sonar devices and other human activities in the ocean is detrimental to the whales and the dolphins that depend on echolocation to survive. Animals use sound for a variety of reasons, including to navigate, to find food, to attract mates, and to avoid predators. But noise pollution makes it difficult for them to achieve these tasks, which affects their ability to survive. Riding electric vehicles, frequent lubrication of machines, turning off electrical appliances when not in use, replacing old vehicles and planting more trees are some of the measures which can be adopted to reduce noise pollution. Authorities play a very important role in this regard. They must specify the ambient air quality standards. The State Government shall categorise the areas into industrial, commercial, residential or silence zones for the purpose of implementation of noise standards for different areas. An area comprising not less than 100 metres around hospitals, educational institutions, zoos and courts, may be declared as silence area.

To conclude, we can say that lessening noise not only helps in reducing energy consumption but air pollution too. Reducing noise pollution will not only affect people but also the environment.

(ii) **Proposal Letter**

Heading: Eat healthy, Stay healthy

Introduction: To promote healthy, eating habits among students.

Objectives: A Food Club will be set up by the Student Council. The Council proposes to launch an awareness drive in school in which students will be told about the hazardous effects of junk food and they will learn the benefits of healthy eating habits.

List of Measures:

- The Basketball Court will be used to set up the food club.
- The club will have students from grade VII to XII.
- The club activities will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- There will be teachers and advisors too.
- Entry fee will be ₹ 200/- that will help funding the club.
- Lectures will be delivered by eminent dieticians.
- Emphasis will be given to home-cooked meals which includes lot of greens.

We hope that the proposal will be accepted for the welfare of students.

3. (i) (a) (II) I have always been puzzled by Sushil's attitude towards work.
 (b) (II) No sooner did I solve one problem, then the teacher gave me another.
 (c) (II) He was so gentle that he could not commit the crime.
 (d) (II) Besides being a famous actor, he was also a renowned director.
 (e) (II) Robin said that it gave him great pleasure to be there that evening.
- (ii) (a) turned down
 (b) turned in
 (c) need for
 (d) need of
 (e) pull over
 (f) pull through
 (g) set aside
 (h) set about
 (i) give up
 (j) gave in

- (iii) 1. saw
2. drummed
3. sat
4. moving
5. emptied
6. ploughed
7. floating
8. stopped
9. ending
10. remained

4. (i) (a) 1. inactive – sedentary
2. eating in a greedy manner – gorging
3. dangerous – perilous
(b) 1. thunder – The sound of thunder could be heard all over Turkey following a massive earthquake.
2. spring – The spring breeze fills the whole atmosphere with vivacity after the somber winter season.
3. past – The lessons must be learnt from the past rather than lamenting over it in order to improve the future.
- (ii) (a) Usually, people like narrator's kind, led a sedentary lifestyle. But in the passage, he is changed into senseless animal who rumbled in the corridors, jumping from one piece of furniture to another or leap from behind half-closed doors.
(b) After having a favourite treat of creamy pudding, the narrator felt suddenly energetic. He went back to the suite of rooms to do some mischief.
(c) After bursting into visitors' room, the narrator ripped the carpet as he rushed towards the opposite end of the sofa where the guest was sitting and tousled up its side like a ferocious creature. Then he leaped from one sofa to the other.
(d) When the narrator 'flew past' the journalist's face, her facial expressions turned from calm engagement to that of utter bewilderment.

(iii) **SUMMARY**

The passage describes the primal behaviour of cats when they get a sugar rush. The cat had just eaten a creamy pudding and felt a sudden burst of energy. He ran back to the suite where his master was staying in and wanted to run amok like a jungle cat. He made his way to the living room and tore up the carpet. He was jumping on the sofa when he realised that a journalist was sitting there, who got surprised at his sudden arrival. It was at this point that he realised that an interview was going on in the room and all his movements were captured by the camera.

