

ICSE Solved Paper 2022 Semester-2

English Paper-1 (Language)

Class-X

(Maximum Marks : 40)

(Time allowed : One hour)

Attempt all questions.

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

SECTION-A

20 marks

1. Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

- (i) If you were granted a special wish what would you choose? Say why you would make this choice and how it will be useful to you and your loved ones.
- (ii) Write a short story in which the main characters are an old woman, a small child and a little puppy.
- (iii) "More learning happens outside the classroom than inside it."
- (iv) Describe a time when all the lights in your locality went off. What were the sounds you heard as you sat in the darkness? How did you feel when the lights came on?
- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a short story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it.



Ans. (i)

A SPECIAL WISH

"If wishes were horses, beggars would ride." This is the age old adage that holds true even today. Wouldn't it be a great thing, if we all had wishes that we could cash in on and get whatever we wanted? Most people would say yes, but this is in fact a dangerous idea. Who knows what all people would wish, just to fulfill their own selfish purposes.

If I had the opportunity to wish for something I would wish for peace in the world. War has, over the centuries, ravaged nation after nation and kingdoms have fallen to the sword throughout history. Blood had been shed, lives had been lost, economies had been destroyed and cities had been razed to the ground and for what? For the greed of a few who were dissatisfied with their lot and wanted more, for hate, for power and for all the wrong reasons that one may think of.

I would wish for peace to prevail amongst countries across the world. I would like to see people united through this peace and they should be able to put aside their differences and continue to live in harmony with their neighbours, and this would be my ultimate dream. Throughout history, war has been glorified by writers, poets and great orators. However, what glory can there be in the loss of lives, in looting and plundering and enjoying the spoils of war? What joy and satisfaction can there be in the mass killing of people in the name of greed, religion and just plain fanaticism? There has to be an end to this.

Today, the Palestine and Israel situation continues to result in loss of lives, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused enough devastation to human and animal life and the environment as well. Then we have the constant unrest in the middle-east which raises its head from time to time and this is not all. Let us not forget the continued clashes with China and India, Pakistan and India that occur from time to time. All of this is unnecessary and doesn't benefit the planet that we call home any way. We humans need to stop and think about life devoid of war where there only peace.

Peace is the only way through which we will be able to make this world a better place to live in. Peace is the only way to help us get out of the situation we are in and we must learn to put aside communal differences, religious biases and be more accepting and tolerant towards others. There is enough room and more on planet earth for all of us.

(ii) **THE GIFT OF LOVE**

It was 13th of December, when Mikhail woke up that morning in a very excited mood. He had hardly slept the night before. It was his birthday and he quickly jumped out of bed, washed and dressed himself and ran downstairs to see what his presents were. His mother hugged him and wished him a happy birthday. He looked around to see if there were any presents and then he caught sight of the brightly coloured packages lying on the coffee table. He ran over to open them up and opened them. By this time, his dad emerged and gave him another bear hug.

Mikhail tore the wrapping off the first present and jumped with joy when he saw what lay within. It was a brand new tennis racket, and just the one that he had been wanting for a long time. It was from his aunt and uncle. The next one was from his parents. It was a big box that contained a basketball, a pair of roller skates that he absolutely loved and a new pair of Jordan's. He was over the moon with all these gifts and immediately, he tried on his brand new shoes. But one present was missing...the one from his grandmother who lived just a few minutes away. He seemed disappointed. Mikhail always looked forward to the presents his grandma gave him. They were the best. He didn't say anything, but he wondered why his grandma hadn't given him a present. Had she forgotten his birthday?

Later in the day when everyone was arriving for lunch, his best friends Anurag and Thomas came in to play and they went into the backyard for some fun. He heard the sound of a car and his grandmother's voice as she entered the home. She called to him and he went running. Finally, his birthday present was here. His grandmother handed him a large box that wasn't even wrapped but looked heavy. It was heavy too. She asked him to close his eyes and

reach into the box. Mikhail was excited and did exactly as she said. When his hand made contact with something soft and fluffy, he jumped and drew back opening his eyes in shock. Was this what he thought it was? Oh how exciting he thought. He opened the box and there, staring up at him was the cutest and tiniest puppy he has ever seen with floppy ears and big eyes that seemed to say love me please. Mikhail jumped for joy and lifted the tiny little pup out of the box and cradled him in his arms. He decided to name him Shadow since he was black. His grandma watched him and smiled. He ran to her to say thank you and flung his arms around her and hugged her. "This is the best present ever", he said. His grandmother smiled and said "Of course it is. Every boy should have a dog."

(iii) **THE LEARNING CURVE**

More learning happens outside the classroom than inside it.

Learning is a continuous process. One is never too old to learn and one should never consider that they have learned all they need to know. Life is all about learning. It is an exciting process to wake up each morning and set about learning something new.

Learning can happen anywhere and at any time. In today's world, the concept of the classroom being the place for learning is slowly fading. Yes, the classroom is the place for bookish learning and gaining subject knowledge by way of the teacher or professor who relies upon their vast knowledge and experience to deliver lectures that are informative and interesting. In addition, there is the use of the internet and many presentations, educational videos, podcasts etc., all of which make the classroom experience an interesting one.

But what about the learning that happens beyond the walls of the classroom? Is that not worth something? Most definitely, it is! Most people will agree that experience is the best teacher and in fact, it really is. What the instructions of the classroom do is that it inform us of what to do and how to deal with various situations but when we are thrown into unexpected situations, they never seem to go as planned and there is usually a need for one to act spontaneously and use one's gut feeling or instinct in order to fare well and avoid disaster. For example, an MBA degree teaches oneself all about business management and how to run a business. But experience teaches oneself how to avoid the

unprecedented pitfalls that one experiences along the way. A degree in education teaches oneself how to teach, plan, and deliver one's lessons to a class, but it does not prepare one to deal with a bunch of unruly students that do not want to learn; only experience teaches us how to be calm and composed and let these students know who is the boss in situations like the one mentioned.

It is indeed experience that comes handy in a number of difficult situations and acts as a life saver. It is not that learning inside the classroom doesn't matter; it is of the utmost importance; however, life and its experiences must go hand in hand with classroom learning. Learning about various countries and their culture is one thing, but travelling to these places and living there to experience the culture first hand is another thing altogether. One is able to experience and learn things that no textbook ever teaches and savour the experience that remains with us for a lifetime.

Every day we can learn something; in the street, we come across people with various skills, doing various things and there is always something to be learned by simply observing them. In conversation with people, we can learn so much by simply paying attention. There is no end to knowledge as the world is changing every day. Today, I learned that Elon Musk has bought Twitter; that is my bit of information for the day which will make an interesting conversation starter.

An enriched life is the best one to live and learning never harms anyone. As the old saying goes, "Knowledge doesn't kill you but ignorance does." Look around and grasp every possibility for learning; it is a life well lived.

(iv) **THE BLACK NIGHT**

It was the middle of summer and we had just finished dinner. The mosquitoes were having a field day under the dining table chewing at our legs, whilst we itched and swatted at them in vain. I had just helped my mother to clear the table and do the washing up when the lights went out leaving the place in darkness. We found the emergency light and turned it on. The mosquitoes began to hum louder than ever now that the sound of the fan didn't cut out their humming. And they began to bite. The tiny home we lived in became suddenly unbearably hot and we took ourselves to the terrace for some fresh air.

Out on the terrace, the darkness seemed less thick and stuffy. We would hear the sounds of other people talking and laughing on their terraces as well. Some children had gotten together and were playing a game of snakes and ladders by torchlight. Their excited screams each time someone went down a snake accompanied by laughter made me wish I could go play with them.

On the terrace opposite to us, a few of the colony aunts had collected and were discussing maids, cooking and household chores in rather loud voices. One of them seemed to be very unhappy with her maid who had not shown up for almost a week. The others tried to comfort her by telling her that they would help her find a new maid. A few of the uncles had set up a round table conference minus the table of course outside in the street between the rows of houses and were discussing the latest in politics. This should be interesting I thought and I wasn't wrong. Soon their voices got louder and louder and they got into a heated argument over the government in the country. Their wives had to come along and take some of them home as the others tried unsuccessfully to calm them down.

In the distance, I heard the crickets chirping and the stray dogs in the colony set up a barking game of their own. The darkness and the sound of so many voices seemed to excite them. On the terrace beside mine, there was a group of young girls who were using their mobile phone to play some music and they were dancing to the latest Bollywood songs. I could barely make out their movements in the darkness, but there was frequent laughter and much excitement and clapping at intervals. I was beginning to enjoy the power cut; there was so much happening around me and I was planning on taking a walk to see what else I would come across when suddenly the lights came on and the colony was lit up once again.

Within minutes, the people had disappeared to the comfort of their air conditioners and their homes and the colony was quiet again. It seemed rather sad and forlorn compared to what had occurred in the last two hours or so. My parents and I too picked up our chairs and went indoors, but I wished that the black night had prevailed for a little while longer.

(v) THE CHILD OF NO TOMORROW

My father drove up to the shop beside the road and asked for someone to check the air in the tyres. I sat comfortably in the car on my way home from school as usual and looked out the window with the AC tuned on. I saw him crouched down sitting on his haunches and working on a car in the heat of the sun. He seemed to be checking the air. When he was done, he moved over to our car and began to do the same. As he passed by to the rear of the car, he looked in and saw me sitting there with my school uniform and I saw a glimmer of regret on his face. The owner of the shop called to him to hurry. He was known simply as Chhotu by everyone who came to the shop. He checked air, replaced wheels, fixed punctures, washed cars, brought customers tea while they waited and did other errands for the shop owner who didn't seem to treat him very well.

I peered at him from within and watched as he wiped the sweat from his brow with the back of his hand. He didn't go to school because he was always there at the shop and didn't wear any uniform. He was the child of no tomorrow; he would grow up without an education and would slave away at the shop fixing cars and getting paid a measly amount.

A few years passed, I graduated high school and moved overseas to study. I found my first job with a law firm in the city and returned home a few years later to visit with my parents. I took my dad's old car out for a drive and found a lot of things wrong with it. And so I decided to have it all fixed. Dad insisted we take it to the shop and not to the dealership. When we arrived, we were greeted by a young man, not much younger than I was, who smiled at us and welcomed us in. He offered us chairs in an air conditioned waiting area and called the nearby coffee shop to have cold drinks sent over. He chatted amiably with my dad in English and Hindi asking after his health and it was only when my father addressed him as Chhotu did the memories come flooding back. This was the boy who according to me had no future. And yet, here he was seemingly successful and happy taking pride in his work. I immediately noticed there were no children working in his shop and I couldn't help but ask him why that was. "Children belong to school, and they should not work in any shop. I

didn't get the opportunity to go to school, but I make sure that I do not prevent any child from getting an education." It was later that I learned Chhotu was instrumental in getting the local school to accept more than a dozen children and he and a few others had worked to find sponsors for those who could not afford the fees. I was filled with admiration and humbled by the experience. As I drove home, I promised myself that I would sponsor a child too.

2. Select one of the following: [10]

- (i) **Your favourite aunt/ uncle has asked you what you would like as a gift for your birthday. What gift would you choose (specify) and why would you choose this? Write a letter to your aunt/ uncle thanking her/him for the kind thought and telling her/him about the gift of your choice.**
- (ii) **You are being considered for a Head boy/Head girl position in the school. Write a letter to the principal explaining why you think you would make a good Head boy/ Head girl. Why does the role interest you? Describe ways in which you would carry out your responsibilities.**

Ans. (i) [10]

April 13th, 2022
Pondicherry

Dear Aunt Meena,

Thank you for your letter which I received a few days ago. Please accept my apologies for not writing earlier as I was busy with exams. It is good to know that both you and uncle are doing well and that the trip to Goa did you all a world of good.

You mentioned you wanted to know what I would like for my birthday. Well, to be honest, I would love for you and uncle to come visit us this year as it has been almost three years since we have not met. Covid ruined your last trip in 2020 and we have been looking forward to you both visiting us since then.

It has been a while and our sleepy little town has changed quite a lot. We have moved into this lovely township where there is a gym and a meditation center, so you can make the most of that. There is a jogging track as well so uncle can take his morning walks. We also have a few new cafes and restaurants in the area and we often go there for dinner. I am sure you will enjoy the Chinese food here.

Other than that, there is a new mall that has come up and there are quite a few good stores there too. Your traditional market still exists so you can go shopping there whenever you want. I know you love buying stuff for the home from there.

Please come and visit us this year over Diwali. It is the only thing I want for my birthday. The weather will be great at that time of year and we would love to have you both with us.

Looking forward to seeing you both.

Lots of love

Ananya

(ii)

Rizwan Ahmed

Grade XI

Heritage International School,

Mumbai

April 25th, 2022

The Principal,

Heritage International School,

Mumbai

Subject: Candidature for Head Boy

Dear Sir,

I am one of the students interested for office of the Head Boy of Heritage International School and as required, I am writing to you to let you know why I think I am best suited to the position.

Sir, I have been a student at the school from grade I and have always maintained an

impeccable record both in academics and extra-curricular activities. I have been three time Inter school debate champion and have won a number of medals at inter school and state level swimming competitions. I have been an advocate for equality for all, and for the rights of women and the underprivileged.

In addition, I have represented the school at the Harvard MUN and have been awarded best speaker on numerous occasions. Apart from that, I sincerely believe I can bring about change for the better and can work towards maintaining discipline amongst students. I have always maintained good relations with my juniors and they look up to me for guidance. I do believe this will go a long way in helping me instill hard work, dedication, honesty and leadership in them.

I do hope that you will consider my candidature and allow me the honour and opportunity to lead my school with pride. I promise to live up to the high standards of the institution and never to let it down.

Yours faithfully,

Rizwan Ahmed

3. (i) **March 22nd is World Water Day. The school Dramatics Club is planning to stage a one-act play to mark the occasion and create awareness. Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board, giving details of the event.** [5]

(ii) **Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him/her to send a team of children to participate in the interactive session which will follow the play.** [5]

Ans. (i)

World Water Day

One Act Play Competition

March 22nd, 2022

From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

At Millennium Hall, Heritage International School

This is an Inter House competition and is open to students of grades VI to XII.

Interested participants are requested to give their names to the house captains.

(ii)

To: principaldps@gmail.com

Principal

St. George School,

Mira Road, Mumbai

Subject: Invite for participation in Interactive Session

Dear Sir,

Our school is celebrating World Water Day on March 22nd, 2022. As part of the celebrations, we will be hosting an interactive session that focuses on Man and the Environment and it would give us immense pleasure to have a team from your esteemed institution in our school. We request you to send a delegation of 6 to 8 members from grades VIII to XII to join us to discuss on this very pertinent issue.

Students are free to carry their laptops with them but must be responsible for their own personal belongings throughout their time here.

The event is scheduled to begin at 3:00 pm and will be followed by tea at 5:00 pm. We look forward to your school's participation in the discussion.

Thanking You.

Yours faithfully,

Tanmay Ghosh

Cultural Affairs,

Heritage International School

