

Pre ISC Examination 2017-2018

Std. : XII  
Subject : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Full Marks : 100  
Time : 3hrs.+15min.

General Instructions :

1. Answer all four questions.
2. You are advised to spend not more than 50 minutes on question 1, 40 minutes on question 2, 30 minutes on question 3 and 1 hour on question 4.
3. The intended marks for questions are given in ( ).

**Question 1**

Write a composition on any **one** of the following subjects in about 450-500 words :

*(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style, and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar). (30)*

- a) Describe in detail a person from History, whom you admire, giving reasons for your choice of the person.
- b) Narrate an incident when you had to remain silent even though you were aware of the truth.
- c) 'Our increasing reliance on high-tech gadgets will eventually make us less able to take care of ourselves.' Write for or against this proposition.
- d) Hope
- e) Youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle, and old age a regret. Give your views on this statement.
- f) Write an original short story with 'The Last Train' as its title.

**Question 2**

Write a Statement of Purpose, for admission in a prestigious foreign university for studying medicine. (20)  
personality traits — academic achievements — interests — reasons for choosing the particular institute — why you should be selected — role of the institute in achieving your goals and aspirations.

**Question 3**

Answer sections (a), (b) ,(c)

**(a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, but sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar in meaning as possible to sentence A: (10)**

1. A : Rita worked very sincerely, yet she did not impress her teacher.  
B : Notwithstanding.....
2. A : You are entitled to a discount as long as the offer lasts.  
B : So long.....

3. A : Though he is intelligent, he is not diligent.  
B : Despite.....
4. A : It's a great pity you wrote that letter to him.  
B : I wish.....
5. A : If Rakesh had not helped us we would have been in serious trouble.  
B : But for.....
6. A : He wore a warm shirt, sweater and a coat as well as an over coat.  
B : Not only.....
7. A : As soon as I lifted the load, I felt a pain in my back.  
B : No sooner.....
8. A : Very few historians wrote as interestingly as Gibbon.  
B : Gibbon.....
9. A : Anita said to Raj, "Why were you sitting alone in the party?"  
B : Anita asked.....
10. A : Immediately after he had come back from Moscow he was told to fly to New York.  
B : Hardly.....

**(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word:**

- i) Its time you decide ..... yourself.
- ii) He spoke with confidence ..... experience.
- iii) She has been living ..... bread and water since the past week.
- iv) Rita will like to come ..... foot.
- v) Let us partake ..... the birthday cake.
- vi) She has come ..... to our way of thinking.
- vii) He is endowed ..... a strong will.
- viii) They are bent ..... creating trouble.
- ix) He is an authority ..... Literature.
- x) The boxer was knocked ..... in the third round.

**(c) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with appropriate form of the verb given in brackets.**

Sam tried to sort out what.....(1)(take) place. The trouble was that everything.....(2) (happen) so quickly that it.....(3)(be) difficult to know in what order things.....(4) (occur). Was Edgar to blame? Was Rebecca? Was Olive? The saucer of milk.....(5) (be) on

the table; Roddy's bone on the mat in front of the stove. He.....(6) (place) them there himself just as Olive.....(7) (tell) him to. He.....(8) (frightened) of Olive. Olive was his wife. He tried to please her by.....(9) (do)everything she told him to do. Animals first came with her, so he made sure that orders concerning the welfare of cat and dog ..... (10) (carry out) instantly.

#### Question 4.

Read carefully the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow :

- (1) Imagine, for example, that you are standing in one of those deserted old streets. First, the villain comes out of the saloon. You know him because he is not alone, but is followed by two or three henchmen. You know him by his spineless walk and by the fact that he leans—he never walks—against one of the porch posts, sullenly surveying the town, waiting with the arrogance of any bully, for trouble to begin, exchanging dark nods with his fellow gunmen.
- (2) Next, out of the brick jail diagonally across the street, comes the hero-sheriff. You know him not only by his tin star but his noble bearing, his honest face, his steely eyes. One quick glance from those eyes takes in everything he needs to know, and when his eyes meet those of the lounging bad men, they pause in the classic moment of recognition, of war declared.
- (3) Now the pretty school-teacher arrives on the stage from the East. As she lifts her skirt to step down, revealing a dainty ankle, she notices the villain's eye focused on this very ankle. He gives her a smirk and she blushes. Averting her head in shame, she catches a quick glimpse of the sheriff, strong and decent as the day is long. Their eyes meet briefly. In the first moment she learns the line-up of Good Guys and Bad Guys in this frontier town that is to be her home.
- (4) Next, from the bank, emerge the banker and a few other merchants. You recognize them not only by their suits, which are in the latest Kansas City style, but by their timidity. Sensing some imminent violence that will ruin local business, they bustle over to the sheriff, and it is obvious that they are begging him to run the Wichita Kid and his gang out peaceably. You know that in the final showdown (guns will be fingered in the saloons, crooked poker hands will be dealt, mirrors and other glass objects will tinkle, and chairs will be splintered over the heads of saloon brawlers) none of them will come to the sheriff's aid.
- (5) Next, comes kindly old Doc with his little black bag. In his unsteady walk you can see that he is putting away more whisky than he should, but you also know in a pinch he will deliver Miz Billings' new baby. He will also come to the sheriff's aid, as he is so old he might as well do the honorable thing.
- (6) The sheriff's only other male ally now comes to the jail door, bottle in hand and blinks out into the daylight. He is the sheriff's loyal side-kick from some earlier adventure. (Nobody knows where does he come from or why such a fierce sense of injustice obsesses him). He is a deputy sheriff, ineffectual in the film's first scrapes, who atones at the end by shooting, with his dying breath, the gunman who is about to wing our hero from the roof.
- (7) From this beginning anybody could write a script for a 'Western' just by filling in the standard details.

The script would resemble a thousand others but nobody would mind. In fact, if it turned up on a television some afternoon, it would hold the entire younger generation transfixed. For, this is the nightly fairy tale of the twentieth century. Like any good fairy tale it moves to its destined happy ending in patterns as carefully prearranged as a ballet,

— Adapted from *Any Good Films Lately*  
by W. K. Zinsser

- (a) (i) Given below are four words / phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage : (4)
- (1) gloomily (2) posture (3) being afraid of (4) aggressive
- (ii) 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 : (4)
- (1) meet (2) head (3) bank (4) might
- (b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible :
- (i) State briefly what, according to the passage, characterizes the villain in 'Western'. (3)
- (ii) Give the chief characteristics of the hero-sheriff. (3)
- (iii) What do you find ironical in this description ? Give reasons to support your answer. (2)
- (iv) In what ways does a typical 'Western' resemble a fairy tale ? (2)
- (c) Describe the standard features of a typical 'Western' revealed in this passage, other than the presence of the villain and the sheriff, in not more than 100 words. Failure to keep within the limit will be penalised. You will be required to - (6+6)
- (i) list your ideas clearly in point form.
- (ii) write the points in the form of a connected passage.