

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION, 2024-2025

CLASS: X
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(ENGLISH PAPER-1)

Time Allowed: 2 hours.

Maximum Marks:80

Answer 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**.

Instruction for the Supervising Examiner

Kindly read aloud the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the Examination Hall.

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 an original short story in which a poor boy, an old man and a teacher form the main characters.
- (ii) One day you had to spend alone at home as your parents had to go out for an important engagement. Give an account of how you spent the time.
- (iii) "Joint family is better than nuclear family." Express your views either **for** or **against** this statement.
- (iv) During the summer vacation, you and your parents visited a hill station. Give a description of the behaviour of the people, the local dishes, the weather of the place, and the important attractions of the place. What did you like most in the place and why?
- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it; but 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) One of your friends recently went through a difficult phase of his/her life. Write a letter to your mother about it, how you helped her and what you felt after it.
- (ii) Write a letter to the Principal of your school, requesting him/her to postpone the coming examinations. Give reasons for your request and say why the postponement will be beneficial to all the students.

Question 3

- (i) Your school is organizing a Book Fair. Write a notice to inform your schoolmates of the event. Ask them to donate old books for the fair.
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school asking him/her to send students to visit the Fair and buy books.

Question 4

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

As rains receded, I got a strange job. Our neighbour, a rich merchant, decided to become a politician. His major handicap was that he was illiterate and he offered me the job of accompanying him on trips into the interior villages to read and write for him at wages of Rs. 6000/- a month. I made several trips with Lala Munshiram as he was called, to outskirts of villages, sleeping under trees and eating stomachful meals for once in my life.)

In the villages I was astonished at the ignorance and poverty of the children I met. I had been pitying myself for not having fashionable clothes and now I met children who could barely cover their bodies. I looked learned and rich against their ignorance and poverty. Women would coax their children to come and talk to me, but they would peep through the window, giggling hysterically.) At night, seated on a bench, I would write down the points dictated to me by Lala Munshiram, then read them to him so that they would be fixed in his memory. Then I read aloud to him his postcards, which either flattered or abused him. Many nights, labourers would come to listen to his speeches, which promised them prosperity. Many of the native villagers promised to vote for him in the hope that if he were elected, they could get manifold favours.

Our trips were tiresome. Travelling by bus, rickshaw, bullock cart or on foot we went from house to house and village to village. I just became a machine recording names and addresses of his supporters, and the listing seemed to be endless. My job seemed to be monotonous doing the same work, seeing same type of people, houses and farms. The only break I had from boredom was when Lala Munshiram addressed people in the market place. To a huge crowd, he would give a talk in the form of a sermon, clapping his hands occasionally, spitting on the floor to mark off his paragraphs and thumping his feet to punctuate his sentences, all of which captivated the simple villagers who, in their turn, shouted slogans promising him their support.

I returned home in March with a pocketful of money that vanished into the bottomless pit of needs of the household. My mother was proud; even Aunt Sarla became friendly; grandmother thought I had performed a miracle and my mischievous qualities had, by now, evaporated. But little did they know that Lala Munshiram had lost the election, I had lost my job and my status had reverted to the earlier one of being a wayward boy.

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
- (1) coax
 (a) compel (b) command (c) persuade (d) intimidate
- (2) wayward
 (a) wandering (b) arrogant (c) docile (d) self-willed
- (ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word *advantage*? [1]
 (a) illiterate (b) handicap (c) ignorance (d) poverty
- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (a) How did the narrator get his job? What did he do to earn his wages? [2]
 (b) What was the reaction of the children and parents towards the narrator? [2]
 (c) What techniques did Lala Munshiram use to win over the villages? [2]
 (d) Why did the narrator feel that his job was dull? [2]
 (e) What impact did the loss of job have on the narrator's life? [1]
- (iv) In not more than 50 words of your own, describe the experiences of the narrator at his first job? [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:

(0) *sat*
 Winston (0) _____ (sit) in his small, dilapidated apartment, (1) _____ (write) in his secret diary. He knew that if the Thought Police (2) _____ (find) it, he (3) _____ (face) severe punishment, but he felt compelled to document his thoughts. "Today," he wrote, "I (4) _____ (realize) how deeply I (5) _____ (hate) Big Brother." His hand (6) _____ (tremble) as he (7) _____ (continue) to write, every word (8) _____ (be) an act of rebellion.

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: - [4]
- (a) Here is the book that I asked for.
- (b) The robbers parked the car a mile from the road.
- (c) His friends stood by him when he was on the verge of bankruptcy.
- (d) I am looking forward to the visit of my sister.
- (e) I am now on good terms with my neighbour.
- (f) When the storm broke, the search was called off.
- (g) He flew into a rage when he was challenged.
- (h) The strike passed through without any untoward incident.

(iii) Join the following to make one complete sentence **without using 'and' 'but' or 'so'**.
Choose the correct option.

[4]

- (1) Akash was tired. Still, he stayed up late to finish his work.
X (a) Despite of being tired, Akash stayed up late to finish his work.
(b) Despite being tired, still Akash stayed up late to finish his work.
(c) Despite being tired, Akash stayed up late to finish his work.
(d) Despite Akash was tired, Akash has stayed up late to finish his work.
- (2) She keeps her money in the purse. This is the purse.
(a) She keeps the purse with the money.
(b) This is the purse where she keeps her money.
(c) This is the money which she keeps in the purse.
(d) The money in the purse is here.
- (3) He may be blunt. He is at least honest.
(a) Although he is blunt, he is at least honest.
(b) He may be blunt and honest at least.
(c) He is blunt and at least honest
(d) He is at least blunt and honest.
- (4) He said something. I did not hear.
(a) I hear he said something.
(b) I heard something what he said.
(c) I did not hear what he said.
(d) I did hear what he said.

(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence.

[8]

- (1) As soon as I finish this task, I will get back to you. (Begin: No sooner.....)
(a) No sooner do I finish this task than I will get back to you.
(b) No sooner does I finish this task than I will get back to you.
(c) No sooner did I finish this task than I will get back to you.
(d) No sooner do I finish this task, I will get back to you.
- (2) She said to me, "Let us go out for a dinner tonight."
(Begin: She suggested to me)
(a) She suggested to me that we should go out for a dinner tonight.
(b) She suggested to me that we should go out for a dinner that night.
(c) She suggested to me that we shall go out for a dinner tonight
(d) She suggested to me that we would go out for a dinner that night
- (3) Nima would rather read a book than watch a movie. (Rewrite using 'prefer')
(a) Nima would rather prefer the movie to the book.
(b) Nima would prefer reading a book to watching a movie.
(c) Nima would prefer watching a movie than read a book.
(d) Nima would prefer the book to watching a movie.
- (4) If you tell me the truth, I shall not punish you. (Use: 'unless')

- (a) Unless you tell me the truth, I shall punish you.
 (b) Unless you do not tell me the truth, I shall punish you.
(c) Unless I punish you, you shall tell me the truth.
(d) Unless you tell me the truth, I shall not punish you.
- (5) It is a pity our vacation is not longer. (Begin: I wish.....)
(a) I wish our vacation would be longer.
(b) I wish our vacation were longer.
(c) I wish our vacation will be longer.
(d) I wish our vacation had been longer.
- (6) Swimming is one of the healthiest exercises. (End: 'swimming')
(a) No other exercise is as healthy as swimming.
(b) No other exercise is healthier than swimming.
(c) Other exercises are healthier than swimming.
 (d) Very few exercises are as healthy as swimming.
- (7) I have never seen Mr. Roy lose his temper. (Begin: Never.....)
(a) Never had I seen Mr. Roy lose his temper.
 (b) Never have I seen Mr. Roy lose his temper.
(c) Never Mr. Roy lost his temper.
(d) Never I saw Mr. Roy lose his temper.
- (8) Joe always comes late to school.
(Rewrite the sentence adding a question tag.)
(a) Joe always comes late to school, doesn't he?
 (b) Joe always comes late to school, didn't he?
(c) Joe always comes late to school, isn't he?
(d) Joe always comes late to school, don't he?