

**PREBOARD – I, 2025-26**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE, PAPER – I, GRADE X**

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**M.M: 80**  
**Time: 2 HOURS**

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**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.**

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**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]

1. Write an original short story which illustrates the truth of the statement. 'One lie leads to another'.
2. Narrate an incident from your own experience when you expected to do very well, but for some reason were unable to do so. Explain what happened and why it happened. What lesson did you learn from it?
3. "School days are the happiest days of our lives." Express your views either for or against this statement.
4. Describe an area in your city or hometown which is famous for its street food. Give details of the familiar sights and sounds you would experience on the street.
5. Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you 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.)

Select **any one** of the following:

[10]

(i) A few friends in your locality had organised a clean-up drive. Write a letter to a cousin who lives in another city/town telling him/her why you think it was necessary, your specific role in it and what the outcome of your effort was.

(ii) Your school has many extra-curricular activities which are taking up a large part of your study time. Write a letter to the Principal requesting a postponement of the examination. Explain why this is necessary and how it will benefit the pupils.

## Question 3

(i) You are the secretary of the Quiz Club of your school. Draft a notice giving all necessary details for the school noticeboard and informing the students about the interschool Quiz Competition to be organised in your school. [5]

(ii) Write an e-mail to the principal of neighbouring school, inviting entries from his/her students for participating in the Quiz Competition to be organised in your school. [5]

## Question 4

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

In the bustling coastal town of Soreya, there lived a young girl named Tanishi, who spent her days collecting seashells by the shore. Unlike the other children, who saw the shells as mere trinkets, Tanishi believed each shell had a story. She would sit for hours, imagining the journey a shell might have taken through the vast ocean before arriving at her feet.

One morning, while walking along the beach after a fierce storm, Tanishi stumbled upon an unusual discovery. Half-buried in the sand was a golden conch shell, gleaming in the sunlight. Its surface was smooth and shone like polished metal. Tanishi picked it up carefully and noticed strange patterns *etched* along its curves.

Curious, she showed the conch to her grandfather, an old sailor who had travelled far and wide. His eyes widened as he examined it. "This is no ordinary conch, Tanishi," he said. "Legends speak of a golden conch that carries the blessings of the sea goddess. It is said to grant a wish to those who find it, but only if their heart is pure."

Tanishi was skeptical but intrigued. "What would you wish for if it were true?" she asked her grandfather. He smiled wistfully. "I'd wish for the fishermen of Soreya to have safer journeys. The sea can be *unforgiving*, but this town depends on it for survival."

That evening, as the stars lit up the sky, Tanishi took the golden conch to the water's edge. Holding it tightly, she closed her eyes and whispered, "I wish for calm seas and safety for all who sail." She then placed the conch back into the water and watched as it disappeared beneath the waves.

The next day, news spread through the town of an extraordinary change. Fishermen reported

that the stormy waters had calmed, and their nets were fuller than ever before. The once-fickle winds now seemed to guide their sails with gentle precision.

Tanishi's grandfather was overjoyed, but he noticed that Tanishi never mentioned the golden conch again. When he asked, she simply smiled and said, "Perhaps the sea decided to be kind."

The story of the golden conch spread across Soreya, and Tanishi became known as the girl who brought peace to the sea. She continued to collect shells, each one reminding her of the conch and its silent power. The beach became a gathering place, where the villagers shared stories and dreams, inspired by Tanishi's selflessness.

Years later, when Tanishi grew up and became a marine biologist, she dedicated her life to protecting the ocean. For her, the golden conch was not just a legend but a symbol of the harmony that could exist between people and nature.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided [3]

1. Etched

- (a) carved      (b) erased      (c) painted      (d) polished

2. unforgiving

- (a) harsh      (b) kind      (c) lenient      (d) weak

3. Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'stormy'?

- (a) calm      (b) windy      (c) turbulent      (d) rough

(ii) Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words.

(a) What made Tanishi believe the golden conch was special? [2]

(b) What did Tanishi wish for, and how did she make her wish? [2]

(c) How did the sea respond after Tanishi made her wish? [2]

(d) Why did the villagers gather at the beach after hearing Tanishi's story? [2]

(e) What did the golden conch symbolize for Tanishi as she grew older? [1]

(iii) In not more than 50 words, Summarise how Tanishi's discovery of the golden conch impacted her town and influenced her life, [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]

The park ..... (i) (be) a lively place on weekends. Families ..... (ii) (arrive) early to secure picnic spots under the shade of trees. A young boy .....(iii) (fly) a kite with his father, their laughter echoing in the air. Nearby, an artist ..... (iv) (paint) portraits of visitors, capturing their smiles on canvas. Suddenly, a loud cheer erupted as a group of children started a friendly race. "If I ..... (v) (win) this race, I'll treat you all to ice cream!" one child shouted confidently. By the time the sun ..... (vi) (set), most visitors ..... (vii) (already/leave) the park. The caretaker smiled, knowing that the park ..... (viii) (become) just as vibrant next weekend.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]

1. She arrived \_\_\_ the airport just in time for her flight.
2. The teacher was pleased \_\_\_ the students' progress this term.
3. We walked \_\_\_ the bridge to get to the other side of the river.
4. The flowers in the garden are blooming \_\_\_ the spring season.
5. He was accused \_\_\_ stealing the book from the library.
6. The children hid \_\_\_ the curtain during the game of hide and seek.
7. Our school organized a trip \_\_\_ the museum last Friday.
8. The letter was addressed \_\_\_ the manager of the company.

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so**. Choose the correct option. [4]

1. He did not study. He failed the test.
  - a) Although he did not study, he failed the test.
  - b) Because he did not study, he failed the test.
  - c) If he did not study, he failed the test.
  - d) Unless he did not study, he failed the test.
2. They worked hard. They won the match.
  - a) Even though they worked hard, they won the match.
  - b) Because they worked hard, they won the match.
  - c) Unless they worked hard, they won the match.
  - d) If they worked hard, they won the match.
3. The sun was shining. It was cold.
  - a) Although the sun was shining, it was cold.
  - b) Because the sun was shining, it was cold.
  - c) If the sun was shining, it was cold.
  - d) Unless the sun was shining, it was cold.

4. She was late. The teacher allowed her to enter.
- Though she was late, the teacher allowed her to enter.
  - Because she was late, the teacher allowed her to enter.
  - If she was late, the teacher allowed her to enter.
  - Unless she was late, the teacher allowed her to enter.

(iv) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. Choose the correct options. [8]

1. "The gardener waters the plants every morning." (Change the voice)

- The plants were watered by the gardener every morning.
- The plants are watered by the gardener every morning.
- The gardener is watered by the plants every morning.
- The plants were watering by the gardener every morning.

2. "She reached the station. The train left." (Begin with "Hardly ... when")

- Hardly she reached the station when the train left.
- Hardly had she reached the station when the train left.
- Hardly she had reached the station when the train left.
- Hardly had she reached the station that the train left.

3. "He is a brave soldier." (Make it exclamatory)

- What a brave soldier he is!
- How brave soldier he is!
- Such a brave soldier he is!
- He is what a brave soldier!

4. "Gold is the most valuable metal." (Change to comparative degree)

- Gold is more valuable than any other metal.
- Gold is the valuable than any metal.
- Gold is most valuable than any metal.
- Gold is valuable than other metals.

5. "He passed the exam. He studied hard." (Change into a complex sentence using "Because")

- Because he passed the exam, he studied hard.
- He passed the exam because he studied hard.
- Because he studied hard, he passed the exam.
- He studied hard because he passed the exam.

6. She said, "I will come tomorrow." (Change to indirect speech)

- She said she will come tomorrow.
- She said she would come tomorrow.
- She said she would come the next day.
- She said she will come the next day.

7. "The box is very heavy to carry." (Rewrite using "too ... to")

- a) The box is too heavy to carry.
- b) The box is heavy too to carry.
- c) The box is too heavy for carry.
- d) The box is too much heavy to carry.

8. "He was reading a book. His brother was playing outside." (Join using "While")

- a) While he was reading a book, his brother played outside.
- b) While he read a book, his brother was playing outside.
- c) While he was reading a book, his brother was playing outside.
- d) While he read a book, his brother played outside.

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