

ICSE 2023 EXAMINATION  
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(ENGLISH PAPER – 1)

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*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time allowed: Two hours*

*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.*

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*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]

- (i) Write an original short story entitled: 'Lost and Found'.
- (ii) Imagine a situation where your mother has been unwell and you had to help her. Explain what you did to help. What did you learn from the experience?
- (iii) 'Democracy cannot survive without education'.

Express your views either for or against this statement.

- (iv) You are a regular traveller in your school bus. Describe what you see on your way home from school each afternoon. Give details of the familiar sights and sounds you experience each day.

- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



**Question 2**

[10]

*(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)*

Select *any one* of the following:

- (i) Your friend has been unwell and unable to attend school for two weeks. An interschool drama competition took place during this period. Write a letter to your friend telling him/her about the event and your role in it.
- (ii) Break time at your school is only for a duration of fifteen minutes. Write a letter to your Principal requesting for an extension in the break-time from fifteen minutes to half an hour. Give reasons for your request and explain in what way an extended break would make a difference to you as a student.

**Question 3**

- (i) Your school is hosting an interschool music competition. Write a notice informing your school about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the event and requesting him/her to send a team to participate. [5]

#### Question 4

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

He would have gone on worrying and worrying in this way if an unexpected *distraction* had not arrived in the form of a heavily loaded car bumping over the grassy bank, dodging between the coconut trees and raising a cloud of dust in the narrow path before it came to a standstill in front of Mon Repos, the white bungalow that stood empty most of the year. It was the de Silvas, the family that came from Bombay to spend an occasional holiday in it and bring it suddenly to life for a few days. They had bought Mon Repos a year ago from the Vakils who had been one of the first Bombay families to build holiday cottages on the Thul beach. But they had grown too old and *frail* to come often and, after the house has stood empty for several years, sold it to the de Silvas who were young and energetic and seemed heartily to enjoy life on the beach. Whenever they came, life changed for the family and the little hut, too. Immediately there was a hubbub, all kinds of excitement and expectations, and of course work to be done, employment to be had and wages.

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Hari, Bela and Kamal stood by their door under the frangipani tree, tense with excitement watching and holding Pinto back as he barked at the unfamiliar sight of a car and stranger till his voice was quite hoarse. There was a commotion in the marshy creek that separated the hut from the house, too – herons, egrets, kingfishers and moorhens all flapping into the *dense* greenery of the pandanus, the casuarina and the bhindi trees for shelter.

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‘Do you think they have come here for good?’ Bela whispered.

‘Hunh – who would live here if he had a house in Bombay?’ Hari scoffed.

‘But look how much luggage they’ve brought – it can’t be just for a few days,’ Bela said, and it was true that an unbelievable number of boxes and bags and baskets were being taken out of the car, out of the boot and off the luggage carrier so that anyone would have thought they had come to stay forever.

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

1. distraction (line 2)

- (a) something that stops you from thinking about something else  
(b) something that helps you to think about something else  
(c) something that you use for weight-training  
(d) something that helps you to not be distracted

2. frail (line 9)

- (a) strong  
(b) funny  
(c) fast  
 (d) weak

3. dense (line 19)

- (a) stupid  
 (b) very thick  
(c) a kind of tree  
(d) sparse

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

- (a) Who were the Vakils? [2]  
(b) Why was the house more suited to the De Silvas? [2]  
(c) Who was Pinto? [1]  
(d) What effect did the noise have on the natural surroundings? [2]  
(e) From Hari's answer to Bela's question what opinion does Hari have of Bombay? [2]

- (iii) In not more than 50 words describe how the arrival of the De Silvas changed life for the family in the little hut. [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) I \_\_\_\_\_ (slow) the car as I saw the new house.

**Answer:** *slowed*

I \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (pull) up into the driveway \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (observe) the way they had \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (build) up the balcony. I \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (forgot) that the bricks of the house \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (be) chocolate brown. The new people \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (make) the tiny balcony into a study room. I \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (stare) at this house, \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (remember) my childhood there.

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

(a) Please wash \_\_\_\_\_ the curry stain from your dress.

(b) She turned \_\_\_\_\_ the offer to work at the factory.

(c) The burglars broke \_\_\_\_\_ the house when the family was away.

(d) I shall compete \_\_\_\_\_ him.

(e) She agreed \_\_\_\_\_ my proposal.

(f) She would like to come \_\_\_\_\_ foot.

(g) The Vishwas group of companies has taken \_\_\_\_\_ the cosmetic market completely.

(h) He agreed to carry \_\_\_\_\_ the manager's orders.

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

1. The delegates arrived. The meeting started immediately.

(a) No sooner did the delegates arrive than the meeting started.

(b) No sooner did the delegates arrive, the meeting started.

(c) No sooner the delegates arrived than the meeting started.

(d) The delegates arriving, the meeting started.

2. We lost our ticket. We lost our luggage.
- (a) We lose our ticket as well as our luggage.
  - (b) Having lost our ticket we lost our luggage.
  - (c) We lost our ticket as well as our luggage.
  - (d) We lost our ticket and we lost our luggage.
3. He cultivates orchids. He displays them at the flower show.
- (a) He cultivates orchids to display at the flower show.
  - (b) He cultivates orchids for displayed at the flower show.
  - (c) He cultivates orchids to play with at the flower show.
  - (d) He cultivates orchids, but displays them only at the flower show.
4. He ran away. He had seen the Principal coming.
- (a) No sooner did he see the Principal coming, he ran away.
  - (b) He ran to see the Principal coming.
  - (c) By seeing the Principal coming, he ran away.
  - (d) Seeing the Principal coming, he ran away.

(iv) Re-write 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 captain said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening".  
(Begin: *The captain.....*)
- (a) The captain said that it was giving him great pleasure to be there that evening.
  - (b) The captain said that it gives me great pleasure to be there this evening.
  - (c) The captain said that it gave him great pleasure to be here this evening.
  - (d) The captain said that it gave him great pleasure to be there that evening.

2. Unless the train arrives on time, we shall miss the concert.

(Begin: *If.....*)

(a) If the train arrives on time, we shall miss the concert.

(b) If the train does not arrive on time, we shall miss the concert.

(c) If the train arrived on time, we shall miss the concert.

(d) If the train does not arrive on time, we shall not miss the concert.

3. He has applied many times. He has never been selected.

(Begin: *In spite.....*)

(a) In spite of applying many times, he had never been selected.

(b) In spite applying many times, he has never been selected.

(c) In spite of applying many times, he has never been selected.

(d) In spite never being selected, he has applied many times.

4. Very few managers are as honest as James.

(End: *..... managers*)

(a) James is more honest than other managers.

(b) James is more honest than most other managers.

(c) James is honest than many other managers.

(d) James is most honest among other managers.

5. I accept your offer.

(Use: *acceptable*)

(a) Your offer is acceptable to me.

(b) Your offer was acceptable to me.

(c) Your offer is acceptable.

(d) Your acceptable offer came to me.

6. As soon as he finishes his work, he starts playing.

(Begin: *Hardly.....*)

- (a) Hardly his work is finished, he starts playing.
- (b) Hardly he finishes his work, he starts playing.
- (c) Hardly he has finished his work and he starts playing.
- (d) Hardly does he finish his work, when he starts playing.

7. My father gave me a pen.

(Begin: *A pen.....*)

- (a) A pen had been given to me by my father.
- (b) A pen was given to me by my father.
- (c) My father was gave me a pen.
- (d) A pen was given by me to my father.

8. I have never seen Mr. Joe lose his temper.

(Begin: *Never.....*)

- (a) Never I have seen Mr. Joe lose his temper.
- (b) Never did I see Mr. Joe lose his temper.
- (c) Never have I seen Mr. Joe losing his temper.
- (d) Never ever did I see Mr. Joe lose his temper.