

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 answering Question 1 and 26 minutes

Answering Question 2.

Question 1

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

- The value of newspapers in the era of internet.
- Write an original short story based on the proverb "Every cloud has a silver lining".
- "AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a threat and not a boon to the humanity". Give your views either for or against this statement.
- You and your friends went on a picnic to a certain location. Somehow you got detached from the group and lost your way. You could not reach them over phone. Narrate the incident, what happened and how you came out of it.
- 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; however there must be clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

Select one of the following:

- Write a letter to a friend who is exclusively occupied only with his studies advising him/her about the benefits of extra-curricular activities. [10]
- Write a letter to the Editor expressing your views on the importance of yoga in life and suggesting some ways and means to popularise it in the country.

Question 3

- You are the Student Editor of the monthly magazine which publishes news about the different events (achievements of the students in academics, extracurricular activities and sports) held in the ten nearby schools as well as original poems, stories and write-ups by students. Write a notice for your school notice board, inviting articles, poems, and stories for the forthcoming edition of the magazine. [5]
- Write an Email to the Principal of a neighbouring school, requesting him/her to send the entries for the forthcoming edition of the magazine. [5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

My grandmother, like everybody's grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe.

My grandfather's portrait hung above the mantelpiece in the drawing-room. He wore a big turban and loose-fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked at least a hundred years old. He did not look the sort of person who would have a wife or children. He looked as if he could only have lots and lots of grandchildren. As for my grandmother being young and pretty, the thought was almost revolting. She often told us of the games she used to play as a child. That seemed quite absurd and undignified on her part and we treated it like the fables of the Prophets she used to tell us.

She had always been short and fat and slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles running from everywhere to everywhere. No, we were certain she had always been as we had known her. Old, so terribly old that she could not have grown older, and had stayed at the same age for twenty years. She could never have been pretty, but she was always beautiful. She hobbled about the house in spotless white with one hand

resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other telling the beads of her rosary. Her silver locks were scattered untidily over her pale, puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer. Yes, she was beautiful. She was like the winter landscape in the mountains, an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace and contentment

My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart. I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it. Then she would fetch my wooden slate which she had already washed and plastered with yellow chalk, a tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen, tie them all in a bundle and hand it to me. After a breakfast of a thick, stale chapatti with a little butter and sugar spread on it, we went to school. She carried several stale chapattis with her for the village dogs.

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

i) Mantelpiece

a) a shelf made of wood or marble stone above the fireplace

b) a shelf made of wood

c) a large dining table

d) none of these

ii) hobbled

a) walked rapidly

b) walked with heavy steps

c) walked silently

d) walked with difficulty

iii) puckered

a) wrinkled

b) calmed

c) relaxed

d) aged

b) Answer the following questions briefly:

(a) Why was it hard for the narrator to believe that his grandmother had ever been young? [2]

(b) Where was his grandfather's portrait placed? [1]

(c) Describe the appearance of the grandfather. [2]

(d) What idea of the grandmother does the narrator present? [2]

(e) Why did the narrator live with his grandmother? [2]

c) In not more than 50 words, write down the daily routine of the narrator and his grandmother. [8]

Question 5

a) In the following passage, fill in each numbered blank 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) Dishing

..... 0 (Dish) out a performance for the ages. India's men's badminton team 1 (lift) the Thomas Cup title with a 2 (command) 3-0 win over powerhouse Indonesia in May 2022, a historic triumph that 3 (enhance) country's status in the sport.

World Championships medallist Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and doubles players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy 4 (deliver) when it 5 (matter) the most, as they 6 (stun) the 14-time champions. 7 (win) the prestigious team championship for first time ever.

An incredible week culminated in a fitting manner for Indian badminton as the country had never reached the summit clash of the world's most prestigious team event before. The underdog Indian side had not even reached the last-four stages since 1979. But this time they ended up 8 (upset) formidable Malaysia and Denmark en route the summit clash. <https://www.icseonline.com>

b) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word: [4]

1. Difficult as it was to play Macbeth, Sunil carried _____ the role appreciably.

2. To my utmost disappointment, the business deal did not come _____.

3. Everyone should be trained to stand up _____ oneself in the path of righteousness.

4. It was not difficult for my father to see _____ the deceit of the trickster.

5. By the time we reached our destination, the sun had gone _____ behind the hills.

6. After a long period of economic depression, things have begun to look _____.

7. The officer was requested to look _____ the matter and get things sorted fast.

8. My foreigner friend took _____ Indian cuisine quite readily.

c) Choose the correct option to join the following sentences without using and, but or so. [4]

1. I speak the truth. I am not afraid of it.

A. I speak the truth being not afraid of it.

B. I am not afraid of speaking the truth.

C. I am not afraid for speaking the truth.

D. I am not afraid to speaking the truth.

2. He injured his foot. He was running the race.

A. He injured his foot while running the race.

B. He injured his foot because he ran in the race.

C. He was running the race for he injured his foot.

D. He injured his foot after he was running the race.

3. Turn to the right. You will find the shop.
A. You will find the shop before you turn to the right.
B. Turning to the right, you will find the shop.
C. You will not find the shop if you turn to the right.
D. Turning to the right, you may find the shop.

4. Read the books. Then you can improve your language.
A. By reading good books you can not improve your language.
B. Read good books for you can improve your language.
C. Unless you read good books you cannot improve your language.
D. Unless you do not read good books you cannot improve your language.

d) 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. We hoped that it would dissuade the gang. (End:hoped)
A. That it would dissuade the gang is what we hoped.
B. That it would dissuade the gang was what we hoped.
C. That it will dissuade the gang was what we hoped.
D. It would dissuade the gang was what we hoped.

2. There are no police around. (End with a question tag)
A. There are no police around, are there?
B. There are no police around, were there?
C. There are no police around, is there?
D. There are no police around, aren't there?

3. Bali disliked village life. (Change to a negative sentence)
A. Bali did not unlike village life.
B. Bali did not dislike village life.
C. Bali did not like village life.
D. Bali did not hate village life.

4. The current was swift and noisy. (Begin: Not only...)
A. Not only was the current swift but also noisy.
B. Not only the current was swift but also noisy.
C. Not only noisy but the current was also swift.
D. Not only swift but the current was also noisy.

5. As soon as the crowd began to disperse, I saw Sachin running towards me. (Begin: Hardly had.....)
A. Hardly had the crowd disperse when I saw Sachin running towards me.
B. Hardly had the crowd begun to disperse when I saw Sachin running towards me.
C. Hardly when the crowd began to disperse that I saw Sachin running towards me.
D. Hardly had the crowd begun to disperse when I saw Sachin running towards me.

6. The group had low energy levels but still they resumed patrol duties. (Begin: Despite...)
A. Despite the group resuming patrol duties, they had low energy levels.
B. Despite of having low energy levels, the group resumed patrol duties.
C. Despite having low energy levels, the group resumed patrol duties.
D. Despite low energy levels, the group resumed patrol duties.

7. I would never have contradicted you. (Change the voice)
A. You would never contradict me.
B. You would never be contradicted by me.
C. You would never been contradicted by me.
D. You would never have been contradicted by me.

8. It was too dark to see the hut near the cutting. (Remove 'too')
A. It was so dark that one could not see the hut near the cutting.
B. It was so dark that one cannot see the hut near the cutting.
C. It was so dark that one would not see the hut near the cutting.
D. It was so dark that one could not see the hut.
