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## **ICSE 2010 : English Paper 1 (English Language)**

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## ENGLISH (PAPER-1)

### English Language

(Two hours)

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 four questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2

#### Question 1.

(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following:- [25]

- Think of a time when you achieved a personal goal. Say why the goal was important to you and how you achieved it. Describe how you felt on achieving it.
- "More lessons are learnt on the sports field than in the classroom". Express your views either for or against this statement.
- A school carnival or fete is a great occasion for fun with friends. Describe one such event in your school.
- Write an original story, beginning with the following line : The water was cold, I took a deep breath and jumped.
- 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 one of the following :-

- (a) Your class was taken to visit an Old Age Home where you spent half a day with residents. Write a letter to your friend telling him/her what you saw. How you felt and in what way you have changed since the visit.
- (b) Write a letter to the Director of a television channel complaining about the quality of the programmes telecast. Suggest ways to improve the programmes.

**Question 3.**

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

They pass me everyday, on their way to school - boys and girls from the surrounding villages and the outskirts of the hill station. There are no school buses plying for these children: they walk.

For many of them, it's a very long walk to school.

Ranbir, who is ten, has to climb the mountain from his village, four miles distant and two thousand feet below the town level. He comes in all weathers, wearing the same pair of cheap shoes until they have almost fallen apart.

Ranbir is a cheerful soul. He waves to me whenever he sees me at my window. Sometimes he brings me cucumbers from his father's field. I pay him for the cucumbers; he uses the money for books or for small things needed at home.

Many of the children are like Ranbir - poor, but slightly better off than what their parents were at the same age. They cannot attend the expensive residential and private schools that abounded here, but must go to the government - aided schools with only basic facilities. Not many of their parents managed to go to school. They spent their lives working in the field or delivering milk in the hill station. The lucky ones got into the army. Perhaps Ranbir will do something different when he grows up.

He has yet to see a train but he sees planes flying over the mountains almost everyday.

"How far can a plane go?" he asks.

"All over the world," I tell him. "Thousands of miles in a day. You can go almost anywhere."

"I'll go round the world one day," he vows. "I'll buy a plane and go everywhere!"

And may be he will. He has a determined chin and defiant look in his eye.

Up to a few years ago, very few girls in the hills or in the villages of India went to school. They helped in the home until they were old enough to be married, which wasn't very old. But there are now just as many girls as there are boys going to school.

Bindra is something of an extrovert – confident fourteen year old who chatters away as she hurries down the road with her companions. Her father is a forest guard and knows me quite well : I meet him on my walks through the deodar woods behind Landour. And I had grown used to seeing Bindra almost everyday. 35

When she did not put in an appearance for a week, I asked her brother if anything was wrong. 40

“Oh nothing,” he says, “she is helping my mother cut grass.

Soon the monsoon will end and the grass will dry up. So we cut it now and store it for the cows in winter.”

“And why aren’t you cutting grass too ?” 45

“Oh, I have a cricket match today,” he says, and hurries away to join his teammate. Unlike his sister, he puts pleasure before work !

Cricket, once the game of the elite has become the game of masses. On any holiday, in any part of this vast country, groups of boys can be seen making their way to the nearest field, or open patch of land, with bat, ball and any other cricketing gear that they can cobble together. Watching some of them play ; I am amazed at the quality of talent, at the finesse with which they bat or bowl. Some of the local teams are as good, if not better, than any from the private schools, where there are better facilities. But boys from these poor or lower middle – class families will never get the exposure that is necessary to bring them to the attention of those who select state or national teams. They will never get near enough to the men of influence and power. They must continue to play for the love of the game, or watch their more fortunate heroes’ exploits on television. 50

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage.

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

(i) defiant (line 25)

(ii) elite (line 43)

(iii) exposure ( line 50) 3]

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

(i) In what way are the children better off than their parents ? [2]

(ii) What was Ranbir’s ambition ? [2]

(iii) How has the fate of the girls changed ? [2]

(iv) In what way was her brother different from Brinda ? [2]

(v) Why is the narrator amazed ? [2]

(vi) Why does the author call the heroes on television ‘fortunate’ ? [2]

(c) In not more than 60 words, relate what difficulties the children face in their daily lives. How does the author feel about it ? [8]

(d) Give a title to your summary in 3(c). State a reason to justify your choice. [2]

**Question 4.**

- (a) In the following passage, 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.

**Example :**

(0) given.

But just when I had almost (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (give) up hope, I was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (strike) with a brilliant idea; my birthday was due fairly soon, and if I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (deal) with the family skillfully, I (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) sure, I could not only get a boat but a lot of other equipment as well. I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (suggest) to the family that, instead of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (let) them the things that I (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (want) most. In this way they could be sure of not (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (disappoint) me. [4]

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words :

- I refrained \_\_\_\_\_ telling Reeta the truth.
- The leader counted \_\_\_\_\_ the cooperation of his colleagues.
- The public was cautioned \_\_\_\_\_ pickpockets.
- Janaki escorted her daughter to the cinema theatre as she was anxious \_\_\_\_\_ her safety.
- Their path was beset \_\_\_\_\_ difficulties yet they succeeded.
- The mouse crept stealthily \_\_\_\_\_ the cheese.
- It was good \_\_\_\_\_ you to invite Sheila for the picnic.
- Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ public places is now banned. [4]

- (c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so;

- You will surely be late. Hurry up !
- The trekker got lost due to the heavy fog. They had misplaced their map as well.
- She has to apologize. He will not meet her again if she does not do so.
- I wear this expensive outfit very sparingly. I brought it last month. [4]

- (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.

- Unless Ria takes care of her health, she will not be able to look after her family.  
(Begin : Ria must .....)
- His arrogance was the cause of his losing the election.  
(Rewrite the sentence using "arrogant")
- If you are not a member you cannot borrow books.  
(Begin : Only .....)

- (iv) It is a pity our vacation is not longer.  
(Begin : I wish .....)
- (v) Raju did not complete the exercise on time.  
(Rewrite the sentence adding a question tag)
- (vi) Rohan was so terrified of being left alone in the house that he started screaming.  
(Begin : So .....)
- (vii) The teacher asked, "How many of you think the answer is correct?"  
(Rewrite the sentence using indirect speech)
- (viii) Sunil is the fastest runner in the school.  
(End ..... as Sunil.)

[8]