



KARNATAKA ICSE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

ISC STD. XII Preparatory Examination 2024

Subject – English Paper 1 (Language)

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

Date: .01.2024

(Candidates are allowed **additional 15 minutes** for **only** reading the paper.
They must **NOT** start writing during this time.)

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 **45 minutes** on Question 1, **55 minutes** on Question 2, **30 minutes** on Question 3 and **50 minutes** on Question 4.)
(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)

Question 1

Write a composition (in approximately 400 – 450 words) on **any one** of the following [20] subjects:

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of matter, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

In this question the marks can be divided into 12 (content) and 8 (expression).

- (i) During summer vacation, you had been to a sea beach where you went for scuba diving. Give a detailed description of what you saw, heard and felt during the diving expedition. Also, give an account of your overall experience.

Content- saw (3), heard (3), felt(3), experience (3).

- (ii) You had gone for a walk and lost your way in a foreign land. As you didn't know the language, you could not read the signboards. Narrate how you found your way back.

Should be a first hand account and age appropriate.

- (iii) Elections are never the true index of the desires of the masses. Express your views either **FOR** or **AGAINST** the statement.

Establish the stance at the beginning. At least four points to be given to justify the argument.

- (iv) Empathy.

Should have one single thread of thought, arranged in sequence.



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- (v) It is said that there is no unemployment in India but unemployable workforce. Present your reflections on this statement.

Four points, adequately amplified.

- (vi) Write an original short story that ends with the following words:

“I hope I will never have to go there again.”

Should include- plot and its development, characters, setting, logical ending, insertion of the given sentence at the end.

Question 2

- (i) Your school took you for an excursion to a nearby historical site. Write a report (in [15] approximately 300 words) for your school magazine about the excursion. Use the following points given below. You may include other relevant details:

Content- 12 marks, expression- 3 marks.

Arrangements for the excursion (2)– date, place and time for assembling (1+1)– transport (1)– fun during the journey (1)– arrival at the site (1)– historical significance of the site (1)– efforts made for conservation (2)– your experience and feelings. (1+1)

- (ii) As the Head Girl/ Head Boy of your school, you have been given the task of [10] organising a play on the topic ‘Gender Equality.’ Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, stating the steps you would take to organise this play.

TITLE Introduction/Heading (Establish the need) [2]

Objectives [2]

(Two points)

List of Measures [4]

(4-6 points) Points have to be written in bullets.

Conclusion [1+1] Name Surname Designation

Question 3

Answer sections (i), (ii) and (iii).



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- (i) In each of the following items, sentence I is complete, while sentence II is not. [5]
Complete sentence II, making it as similar as possible to sentence I. Write sentence II in each case.

Example:

- (z) (I) The heavy showers of rain revived the plants.
(II) The plants

Answer: (z) The plants were revived by the heavy showers of rain.

- (a) (i) No sooner did he take off his coat than it began to snow.
(ii) As soon as **he took off his coat, it began to snow.**
- (b) (i) Sam is shorter than all other boys in the class.
(ii) No other **boy in the class is as short as Sam.**
- (c) (i) Amber amazed everyone with her excellent performance in hockey.
(ii) Amber's **excellent performance in hockey amazed everyone.**
- (d) (i) The entire country's honour is at stake.
(ii) **What is at stake is the entire country's honour.**
- (e) (i) My ailing grandmother requested me to visit her in Mumbai.
(ii) My ailing grandmother said, "**Please visit me in Mumbai.**"

- (ii) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence). [5]

- (a) He sent in his application for the post of lecturer.
(b) The Principal sent out the circulars to the teachers.
(c) Dirt often brings in disease.
(d) The couple has to bring up three children.
(e) Place aside one pastry for me to eat later.
(f) One extra guard was placed at the victim's house.
(g) Listen out for the bell of the ice-cream vendor.
(h) Rita refused to listen to anyone complain against her daughter.
(i) The musicians have just enough time for a run through before the concert.



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- (j) As an adult I cannot run to my parents for help .
- (iii) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb [5]
given in brackets. Do not write the passage but write the verbs in the correct order.

He was a mongoose, rather like a cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits. He could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottlebrush, and his war cry, as he scuttled (1) (scuttle) through the long grass, was, ‘ Rikki-tikki-tikki-tikki-tikki.’

One day a summer flood washed (2) (wash) him out of the burrow where he lived with his father and mother, and carried (3) (carry) him kicking and clucking (4) (cluck) down a roadside ditch. He found (5) (find) a wisp of grass floating there, and clung to it till he lost his senses. When he revived (6) (revive), he lay (7) (lie) in the middle of a garden path, very wet and still. Teddy, a young boy of around eleven, saw him and said, “Here’s a dead mongoose.”

“No,” said his mother, “let’s take (8) (take) him in and dry him. Perhaps he isn’t really dead.

Teddy’s father, a big man, picked him up between his finger and thumb, and said he was not dead. They wrapped (9) (wrap) him in cotton wool, and warmed him, and he opened his eyes and sneezed.

“Now,” said Teddy’s father, “don’t frighten (10) (frighten) him. We will see what he’ll do.”

Question 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

- (i) (a) Given below are three words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar [3]
meaning in the passage:
- (1) doubt as to the truth of something - **scepticism**
 - (2) proceeding at a pace faster than a walk - **trotting**
 - (3) a person who can perceive events in the future - **clairvoyant**
- (b) For each of the words given below, choose the correct sentence that uses the [3]



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same word unchanged in spelling, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage:

(1) passing

- (A) With the passing of the years, Mr. John had become a little eccentric.
- (B) He was merely making a passing reference to the original text.**
- (C) Sudha could not bear to witness the passing of time and do nothing.
- (D) Time and tide pass on their whims, caring little for the world.

(2) Drive

- (A) The sleepy town has undergone a much needed facelift after the cleanliness drive.**
- (B) The long drive rejuvenated him after a rather tiring day at work.
- (C) The flash sale drove the enthusiastic shoppers to the shopping mall.
- (D) He makes sure to drive cautiously while navigating the serpentine roads.

(3) Slight

- (A) Unlike the mother, the daughter was short, slight and strikingly slender.
- (B) When the child began to cry, the teacher lowered her voice slightly.
- (C) She was deeply hurt after being slighted in the birthday party.
- (D) A slight increase in the price of commodities was expected after the election.

(ii) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:

- (a) What was the narrator doing when he heard someone call his name? [2]
The narrator was sitting outside the Café de la Paix, watching the splendour and shabbiness of Parisian life, and wondering over his vermouth at the strange panorama of pride and poverty that was passing before him.



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- (b) State the reasons for which the narrator liked Lord Murchison immensely. [2]
Lord Murchison was so handsome, so high-spirited, and so honourable. He really admired him all the more for his frankness.
- (c) “I found him a good deal changed.” State any two evidences from the story [2]
that substantiate the change in Lord Murchison.
Lord Murchison looked anxious and puzzled, and seemed to be in doubt about something. The narrator felt it could not be modern scepticism, for Murchison was the stoutest of Tories, and believed in the Pentateuch as firmly as he believed in the House of Peers. **His frankness was no more present as is evident in his reluctance to reveal the identity of the woman in the photograph.**
- (iii) Summarise the description and the narrator’s interpretation of the woman’s [8]
photograph. You are required to write the summary in the form of a connected passage in about 100 words. Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised.
- **She was tall and slight, and strangely picturesque with her large vague eyes and loosened hair.**
 - **She looked like a clairvoyant, and was wrapped in rich furs.**
 - **It seemed to the narrator the face of someone who had a secret, but whether that secret was good or evil he could not say.**
 - **Its beauty was a beauty moulded out of many mysteries - the beauty, in fact, which is psychological, not plastic.**
 - **The faint smile that just played across the lips was far too subtle to be really sweet.**
 - **She is the Gioconda in sables.**