

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH Paper – 1

(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.

*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.)

[25]

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

- (a) Write an original short story that begins with the words: "In the background I could hear an awful commotion, men's voices raised and women screaming."
- (b) 'Boarding schools are far better than day schools for the all-round education of a child'. Express your view either *for* or *against* this statement.
- (c) You were on a school trip and were on your way back to the hotel late one night when your school bus, full of children, broke down in a lonely area. Describe what you saw and experienced as you looked around. How was the problem solved?

This Paper consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.

- (d) Teaching someone else how to do something can be a rewarding experience. Think of a skill that you have helped someone to develop. Perhaps you taught someone how to swim or to bake a cake, or helped someone learn how to study more effectively. Narrate the events that made up the process of teaching the skill, and say what made the experience important and memorable for you.
- (e) 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

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

Select **one** of the following:

[10]

- (a) You will soon have to make a decision about the subjects that you wish to study in classes XI and XII.

Write a letter to your Grandfather telling him about the subjects that you plan to take up. Be sure to explain the reason for your choice and how you think these subjects would help you in the future.



- (b) The children in your neighbourhood are forced to play on the street for want of a proper play area. Write a letter to the Editor of a popular newspaper, pointing out the need for a playground in your neighbourhood.

Give reasons why you think a play area is necessary and point out how it would benefit everyone who lives in that area.

Question 3

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

There were other boys in Manjari village, but Bisnu was the only one who went to school. His mother would not have fussed if he had stayed at home and worked in the fields. That was what the other boys did; all except lazy Chittru, who preferred fishing in the stream or helping himself to the fruit off other people's trees. But Bisnu went to school. He went because he wanted to. No one could force him to go; and no one could stop him from going. He had set his heart on receiving a good schooling. He wanted to read and write as well as anyone in the big world and so he walked to school every day. 5

A colony of langoors lived in the forest. They fed on oak leaves, acorns, and other green things, and usually remained in the trees, coming down to the ground only to play or sun themselves. They were beautiful, supple-limbed animals, with black faces and silver-grey coats and long, sensitive tails. They leapt from tree to tree with great agility. The young ones wrestled on the grass like boys. 10

A dignified community, the langoors did not have the cheekiness or dishonest habits of the red monkeys of the plains; they did not approach dogs or humans. But they had grown used to Bisnu's comings and goings and did not fear him. Some of the older ones would watch him quietly, a little puzzled. They did not go near the town; because the boys threw stones at them. And anyway, the forest gave them all the food they required. 15 20

Coming from another direction was a second path, and at the junction of the

two paths Sarru was waiting for him. Sarru came from a small village about three miles from Bisnu's and closer to the town.

They hailed each other, and walked along. They often met at this spot, keeping each other company for the remaining two miles. 25

'There was a panther in our village last night,' said Sarru.

This information interested but did not excite Bisnu. Panthers were common enough in the hills and did not usually present a problem except during the winter months, when their natural prey was scarce.

'Did you lose any animals?' asked Bisnu. 30

'No. It tried to get into the cowshed but the dogs set up the alarm. We drove it off.'

'It must be the same one which came around last winter. We lost a calf and two dogs in our village.'

'Wasn't that the one the shikaris wounded? I hope it hasn't become a 35 cattle-lifter.'

'It could be the same. It has a bullet in its leg. These hunters are the people who cause all the trouble. They think it's easy to shoot a panther. It would be better if they missed altogether, but they usually wound it.'

'And then the panther's too slow to catch the barking-deer and starts on our 40 own animals.'

'We're lucky it didn't become a man-eater. Do you remember the man-eater six years ago? I was very small then. My father told me all about it. Ten people were killed in our valley alone.'

'What happened to it?' 45

'I don't know. Some say it poisoned itself when it ate the headman of the village.'

Bisnu laughed. No one liked that old villain. They linked arms and scrambled up the stony path to school.

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

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

(i) agility (*line 13*)



- (ii) hailed (*line 24*)
- (iii) villain (*line 48*) [3]
- (b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (i) How was Chittru different from other boys? [2]
- (ii) What was Bisnu's ambition? [2]
- (iii) What information did Sarru give Bisnu? [2]
- (iv) How did the information affect Bisnu? [2]
- (v) Why did the panther become a cattle-lifter? [2]
- (vi) What joke does Sarru make? [2]
- (c) (i) In not more than 60 words describe what the narrator tells us about the behaviour of the langoors. [8]
- (ii) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). Give a reason to justify your choice. [2]

Question 4

- (a) 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) A woman _____ (wait) at an airport one night, with several long hours before her flight.

Answer: was waiting.

She (1) _____ (hunt) for a book in the airport shops, (2) _____ (buy) a bag of cookies and found a place to sit. She (3) _____ (engross) in her book but happened to see that the man sitting beside her, bold as could be, grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between, which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene. So she (4) _____ (munch) the cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy thief diminished her stock. She (5) _____ (get) more irritated as the minutes ticked by, thinking, "If I wasn't so nice, I (6) _____ (black) his eye." With each cookie she took, he took one too. When only one was left, she wondered what he would do. With a smile



on his face, and a nervous laugh, he (7) _____ (take) the last cookie and broke it in half. He offered her half, as he ate the other. She had never known she could be so angry and turned to gather her belongings. As she reached for her baggage, she gasped with surprise, there was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes. If mine are here, she moaned in despair, the others were his, and he (8) _____ (try) to share.

[4]

(b) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word:

- (i) She takes a lot of trouble _____ her work.
- (ii) Our English friends have taken _____ Indian food quite quickly.
- (iii) He got an A+ _____ the Mathematics test.
- (iv) He jumped _____ the river to save his friend from drowning.
- (v) Always be prepared _____ a surprise test.
- (vi) She hid _____ the cupboard and gave everyone a fright.
- (vii) She is fond _____ pets.
- (viii) The brothers quarrelled _____ themselves for their father's property.

[4]

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

- (i) We had better get ready now. We may not have time to reach the airport.
- (ii) Mr. Liew has been sick. He has been so since he came back from Japan.
- (iii) The debating teams were very happy. Both were declared joint-champions.
- (iv) He escaped from the prison. He looked for a place where he could hide.

[4]



(d) 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.

(i) These windows need cleaning again.

(Begin: These windows will.....)

(ii) My mother said I could go with you only if I returned home by five o' clock.

(Use: as long as)

(iii) It doesn't matter which chemical you put into the mixture first, the results will be the same.

(Use: difference)

(iv) Who does this pen belong to?

(Begin: Do you know.....)

(v) Heavy rain has caused the cancellation of the outdoor garden party.

(Begin: Due.....)

(vi) I've never seen so many people in this building before.

(Begin: This is.....)

(vii) If we light the fire, the rescuers will see us.

(Begin: We will.....)

(viii) Only a few books were remaining on the shelf when we left.

(Begin: Most.....)

[8]