

ICSE SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION

SAMPLE PAPER - 3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH PAPER - 1

Maximum Marks: 40

Time allowed: One and a half hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 10 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

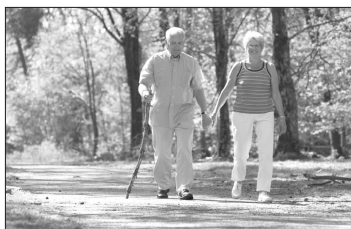
The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*Attempt **all** questions.*

Question 1.

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following:

- (i) Write an original short story entitled 'My sanity was restored'.
- (ii) "Children should take care of their ageing parents." Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iii) Weddings are good places to have social interactions. Give a description of such a wedding that you had attended. How did it help you to reconnect with relatives and/or neighbours?
- (iv) The Coronavirus pandemic has made us realise the most basic life skills. The importance of hygiene, maintaining social distancing, trusting and respecting the frontline workers and the power of community-led initiatives to help people in need. Write an essay on how the pandemic has changed our lives forever and the lessons learnt from it.
- (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.



Question 2.

Select one of the following :

- (i) Write a letter to your friend congratulating him/her on his/her outstanding achievement in the field of education.
- (ii) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper drawing attention to the constant bandhs and protests that disrupt the social life in your city.

Question 3.

- (i) You are the Head boy/girl of your school. Your school is organizing remedial classes for students of classes IX-XII before school hours. Write a notice for the school notice board informing students about this programme.
- (ii) You are the Principal of the school. Write an e-mail to parents of the students of Classes IX-XII about the same.



Answer 1.

(i)

MY SANITY WAS RESTORED

A gamut of behaviour categorised by certain abnormal behavioural pattern is known as insanity, craziness or madness. It may be considered as violations of social norms, or may be at times the person becoming a danger to himself or others. Since, ancient times insanity was to be taken as a curse or black magic trick of a witch, ghost or something like it. It was to be treated by mantras and yagnas to please the supernatural power to get rid of one's insanity.

So, after the brief description of insanity and its impact now, I am going to describe about my insanity. Actually it was a terrible shock that disturbed my mental order. It shook me from top to bottom, when I heard of my dear brother-in-law's severe accident. As soon as, I heard it, I went out of my senses. I couldn't recognize any family member nor could I take care of myself. I became like a toddler, unknown and unaware of social ethics and my responsibilities.

My parents and my siblings used to look after me for around one month. They were worried about me, and wanted to restore my sanity. They went to a lot of people who claimed themselves to be well acquainted with supernatural powers, to get me treated. But all of it was of no use. My parents wasted a lot of money and time to get my sanity restored. They took me to a top neurological hospital where I underwent a long list of medical tests. The reports said that it's a temporary state of mind. It can be restored, but it will take time. It was because the kind of shock my mind couldn't withstand, that was to be recreated to restore my normal condition. Though it was risky, as it may take away my life or may even paralyse me. During the course of treatment, one day I was sitting on my wheelchair in the balcony of my hospital room. I saw a man yelling wildly. I don't know what happened to me, I started crying loudly as if that man was yelling to save my brother-in-law or vice-versa. The entire team of nurses, attendants along with the doctor and my parents rushed to me. I was surprised to see myself in a hospital in a poor appearance. I asked my parents "what is all this"? They were happy to see me in my proper mental senses. This way my sanity was restored.

(ii)

CHILDREN SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEIR AGEING PARENTS FOR THE MOTION

The whole world is full of many shocking treatments of children towards their old gone parents. A large number of parents, even some of the celebrities too, are in this list who are dragged to old age homes or left in hospitals to struggle with difficulties and isolated. I think that it's our first and foremost duty to serve our dear parents who brought us to this beautiful world and looked after us well to help us grow up into a healthy and a well-educated person. They had been there always for us whenever and for whatever we need from them. They make sure to provide us a roof, protect us from all the evils in and around the society. They have sacrificed their dreams and needs for our better upbringing. So, it's our moral duty to look after our family's elderly members. Also the way we will treat our parents, we are going get the same treatment from our children for children learn from adults. It is a great blessing to take care of our elderly parents.

It must not have been easy for them to do so much for us. We hardly think about all the distress we created for them since our infancy when we used to spoil the party dress of our mother, start a crazy cry to continue for a longtime, didn't let them sleep the whole night till the age of two, when we tore up any important document or scribble on any precious book or break an expensive show-piece, at the age of six where we started yelling or craving to buy many useless items hanging in a shop, at the age of thirteen when we brought a lot of complaints from school, etc. Those highly irritating and sometimes embarrassing moments when we frustrated our parents, they didn't pack up our bags to throw us out or drag us to an orphanage. So, how can we even think of avoiding them or force them to live a lonely helpless life?

So, in their old age they need a companion who will look after them patiently as if they were kids, to make them at ease, sit, and listen carefully to them. We must owe our best care and love to them who gave us life and nurtured us into the people we are today. It should be kept in mind that our parents are not going to live forever, they are only for a short span of time with us.

AGAINST THE MOTION

Though it sounds discourteous but in today's fast life full of several other problems and issues, taking care of parents is really stressful. It should not be a bounding on children to take care of their parents only because they are their parents. It shouldn't be an exchange deal that parents have brought them up so the children should too do the same to parents. Parents have brought up children to this world for their own happiness and with their own choice. So, they have to take the responsibility of their choices.

It is painful to know about some of the tragic stories of old parents being ill-treated by their children. The elderly parents should pre-plan their own care, as a part of being a responsible adult. There are a lot of government and semi-government plans to invest in it at a younger age and get a good return throughout the life. Such investment may help them as they wish their children to behave with them. I think we should be responsible for our life, on our own. But people are so careless and less forward looking into future planning. When they are old enough to have money or time to invest and wait, then they come over to their children for asking for all those favours they did for them. Some of the children are poorly treated by their own parents. Such children face physical and emotional abuses and negligence at the end of their parents.

When the parents were young they didn't care even a bit for their elderly parents. Their parents lived a horrific life with a lot of loneliness. So, it is not at all necessary for children to take care of their ageing parents. It might sound rude but ageing parents have their own traditional belief and so they fail to cope with the advancement. This age difference becomes a reason for conflicts and neither the parents nor their children enjoy a peaceful life. Therefore, it is better for parents to make arrangements for their old age in advance and lead a better life.

(iii) WEDDINGS ARE A GOOD PLACE FOR SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

The life today has become so fast that I am reminded of a famous poem—"Leisure" by William Henry Davies which starts with :

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

These days everything is easier to get or to achieve but it's almost impossible to spare a few minutes for family members, relatives or friends. The internet which was meant to connect us easily to our near ones has created a much unavoidable void as it has brought us close to unknown ones and far from our near ones. Wedding is the only good place where all our family, friends, and most of the relatives gather having ample spare time to enjoy the real emotions of humanness. I too miss my relatives a lot. As no one visits us as frequently as it was during my childhood. I am also busy enough to go out and meet any of them or even my dear friends.

I would like to share a wedding where I went with my family. It was a memorable one. As we reached there we were welcomed with great zeal and warmth by our uncle and aunt, whose son's marriage we had come to attend. Then we entered the house. It was amazingly decorated with all rendezvous extravagance. The house was full of people. I saw my maternal uncle there with his family. I screamed out of happiness to see them. Our parents met him and I had a nice time with my cousin. We went to the pandal where snacks with evening tea were arranged and a lot of children were having fun. There I met my childhood friend whom I missed the most, because he has changed

his school last year. Sometime later, a red car arrived, I was gazing at it and saw that my cousin brother with his parents and his maternal grandparents had arrived there. I rushed to hug him. He too was happy to see me. His grandparents blessed me with their sweet words. His parents patted me and asked for my parents.

We came to know a lot of people residing in our neighbourhood. So, the wedding event allowed me a lot to meet, enjoy and get acquainted with people around me. I love wedding party, as it is really one of the best platforms for convenient social interaction.

(iv)

COVID-19 CHANGED THE WORLD

The world is not the same anymore and the COVID-19 pandemic has forever changed our lives. The virus seems like a permanent addition in our lives according to most scientific studies and may never go away even if its cure or vaccination becomes commonplace. The virus consumed lakhs of people. Many were able to fight its effects and survived but most could not.

What the doctors and experts have been saying is pretty basic. Wash our hands, cover our noses and sanitise our surroundings often. These are the first line of defence against our fight with the virus. So hygiene is now as important as oxygen. Keeping ourselves relatively clean, taking care not to touch things in public places, wearing masks when travelling in public transport, and consistently making sure we do not dirty the surroundings should become a norm.

Secondly, our lives have changed with the way we work and study. The dependency on the virtual world will gain more traction and people will have to upgrade their way of work and education. It has been an eye-opener to witness the way the world has geared itself up to fight the outcomes of the coronavirus pandemic. Students never thought they would have to depend on their teacher's online notes, but it has become the new normal. Parents have to update their knowledge of computers and the internet to help their children navigate this transition.

Thirdly, people now have understood the importance of leading a healthier life, and more so knowing that the medical system is not equipped to take care of lakhs of people at the same time. For example, the home quarantining and home packages that have become common today. Doctors and experts are urging people with minor symptoms to stay at home and quarantine themselves instead of overburdening the resources. Furthermore, the days of going to any public event without necessary precautionary measures like face masks, temperature checks and gloves seems impossible. We can imagine the world in masks now. And it is not going to change anytime soon.

(v)

THE OLD AGE

Agewell Foundation, New Delhi conducted a survey on elderly people and found that 87 percent of elders in the 70-80 years of age group lead a life of isolation. They are left alone by their children to fight the tussle of life the way they can. Seeing all such facts and figures of elderly people it seems that they need to be much more aware of their forthcoming old age, its requirements and plan in advance for it. For their children, old grown parents are like some old tattered coat to be thrown or dumped away from the sight. So, parents should take a lesson from this ill-treatment (to parents at the end of their own children) and become self-dependent by planning for themselves and not investing their everything on their children with a hollow hope that one day those kids will take care of them.

The given picture exhibits an elderly couple enjoying their life very well. It must be planned in advance both financially and mentally, that in old age they have to remain alone. If once prepared for it then no doubt whether children stay with them or keep parents with themselves or leave them alone, nothing will give pain to the parents. Rather, they'll be having a life full of ease without any rush or pressure to manage life with compromise as they have to buy something for their kids.

In the picture given above, the couple is tranquil and happy, and relaxed enjoying the cosy company of their life partner, which they couldn't enjoy in the process of nurturing their children and

maintaining all their needs. No matter if one is down with some deadly disease like arthritis, BP, diabetes, etc., once they have planned their life in advance regarding finance or the mindset to live alone, it becomes easy to cope up with all sorts of hurdles. The company of a supportive partner and away from all distresses of life faced in younger days makes life look much more enthusiastic and jolly. The elderly people can and should ponder that since it is their last stage of life, so they must enjoy and live life in a lively way, shed off all their grievances and lead a beautiful life to be admired by even younger generation.

Answer 2.

- (i) Ring Road, Near Pearsales,
Daffodil Apartment,
A Block, 12th floor,
Pune-901211.

06 June, 20XX.

Dear Archit,

I am very happy to receive a letter from you. It is a great moment to rejoice that you have topped the school and International Science Olympiad too. Congratulations dear friend. You were one of the most intelligent students of your class. Your success is going to inspire other students', future. Let's meet once and we'll decide for a celebration. That's all from my side. Do write back. My earnest regards for uncle and aunt.

Yours affectionately,

Srikanth

- (ii) Sahzad Society,
3rd lane, 5th floor,
Khari Bawli, Daryaganj,
Delhi-110 009

13th October, 20XX

The Editor,

The Times of India,

K.G. Marg,

New Delhi-110 001.

Dear Sir,

Through the esteemed column of your newspaper, I wish to bring to public notice that constantly erupting bandhs and protests is disrupting the daily life of middle class people and their earnings in Delhi. On an average its shaking away the social life.

Today the world has become too materialistic. It is harmful wasting a few minutes without work. But the regularly rising protests in the name of freedom of expression has harmed the common people's social life too. These issues can be solved by peaceful means of discussing or writing to the concerned authority/department. It may really solve the problem without disrupting social life or without causing harm or loss to those working. I would urge you to please create awareness among people and look into the disruption of social life due to frequent occurrence of protests.

Yours faithfully,

Avtar Raheja

RWA member

Answer 3.

(i)

<p style="text-align: center;">REMEDIAL CLASSES Extra Classes for Students of Classes IX-XII from 20th July, 20XX at 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in Respective Classes, Modern School Students of classes IX-XII who scored less than 60% in the first terminal examination have to compulsorily attend the Remedial Classes. For more details please contact the Head boy/girl.</p>
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(ii) To : e-mail addresses of all parents of the students of classes IX-XII

Subject : Remedial Classes for students of classes IX-XII before school hours.

Dear parents,

Our school has always tried to help children in all possible ways. In accord with this, we have initiated Remedial Classes for all students of classes IX to XII. The classes will be conducted from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. *i.e.*, before school hours.

Please be informed that students who scored less than 60% in the first term examination have to compulsorily attend the Remedial Classes.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully,

Dr. R. K. Swami

Principal,

Modern School, Guwahati

