



Estd. 1861

# BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE FINAL TERM EXAMINATION (2024-25)

## CLASS - IX

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MAX MARKS: 80

Duration: 2 Hours

Attempt **all five** questions.

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

You are advised to spend no more than **30 minutes** answering **Question 1** and **20 minutes** in answering **Question 2**.

#### Question 1

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

[20]

- 1) Write an original short story which begins with: 'I do not believe in miracles but...'
- 2) Narrate an interesting incident from your own experience which occurred when your parents went out of town and left you and your elder sibling to manage the house. Mention what you did, how you managed without your parents and what you learnt from it.
- 3) 'In the age of AI, homework has no value.' Express your views for or against this statement.
- 4) Recently you have spent a week in the hills at your relative's house. Describe the joy of living in the lap of nature. Give details about the weather, beauty of hills, local people and their crafts.
- 5) 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 any **one** of the following:

[10]

1. Your parents want you to be an engineer, but you have already decided to pursue a different ambition. Write a letter to your parents explaining what field you have chosen ,why you have chosen this particular field and what your future plans are to achieve success in this field.
2. Write a letter to the Manager of a Bank requesting him/her to grant permission to you and your classmates to visit the bank to learn about the bank's functioning. Mention the probable date of visit, the number of students and the reason for the visit.

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### Question 3

1. You are the Secretary of the Literary Club of your school, and have planned to organise a talk by your favourite author in your school. Draft a notice to be put up on the school notice board, inviting interested students. [5]
2. Write an email to a renowned literary personality of your country inviting him/her to grace this event and conduct this talk in your school. Give them relevant details. [5]

### Question 4

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

Punctually at midday he opened his bag and spread out his professional equipment, which consisted of a dozen cowrie shells, a square piece of cloth with *obscure* mystic charts on it, a notebook, and a bundle of palmyra writing. His forehead was resplendent with sacred ash and vermilion, and his eyes sparkled with a sharp, abnormal gleam which was really an outcome of a continual searching look for customers, but which his simple clients took to be a prophetic light and felt comforted.

The power of his eyes was considerably enhanced by their position—placed as they were between the painted forehead and the dark whiskers which streamed down his cheeks: even a half-wit's eyes would sparkle in such a setting. To crown the effect he wound a saffron-coloured turban around his head. This colour scheme never failed.

People were attracted to him as bees are attracted to cosmos or dahlia stalks. He sat under the boughs of a spreading tamarind tree which flanked a path running through the town hall park. It was a remarkable place in many ways: a surging crowd was always moving up and down this narrow road, morning till night.

A variety of trades and occupations was represented all along its way: medicine sellers, sellers of stolen hardware and junk, magicians, and, above all, an auctioneer of cheap cloth, who created enough din all day to attract the whole town. Next to him in vociferousness came a vendor of fried groundnut, who gave his ware a fancy name each day, calling it "Bombay Ice Cream" one day, and on the next "Delhi Almond," and on the third "Raja's Delicacy," and so on and so forth, and people flocked to him. A considerable portion of this crowd dallied before the astrologer too. The astrologer transacted his business by the light of a flare which crackled and smoked up above the groundnut heap nearby.

Half the enchantment of the place was due to the fact that it did not have the benefit of municipal lighting. The place was lit up by shop lights. One or two had hissing gaslights, some had naked flares stuck on poles, some were lit up by old cycle lamps, and one or two, like the astrologer's, managed without lights of their own. It was a *bewildering* crisscross of light rays and moving shadows. This suited the astrologer very well, for the simple reason that he had not in the least intended to be an astrologer when he began life; and he knew no more of what was going to happen to others than he knew what was going to happen to himself next minute. He was as much a stranger to the stars as were his innocent customers. Yet he said things which pleased and astonished everyone: that was more a matter of study, practice, and shrewd guesswork. All the same, it was as much an honest man's labour as any other, and he deserved the wages he carried home at the end of a day.

Extract from: An Astrologer's Day R.K.Narayan

1. For each word given below, choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided [2]
  - (i) obscure
    - a. incomprehensible
    - b. strange
    - c. magical
    - d. definite
  - (ii) bewildering
    - a. normal
    - b. clear
    - c. exciting
    - d. baffling
2. Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'diminished'? [1]
  - a. attacked
  - b. flanked
  - c. enhanced
  - d. resplendent
3. Answer the questions briefly in your own words.
  - a. List the items that the astrologer spreads out as part of his professional equipment. [2]
  - b. How is Town Hall a remarkable place for the astrologer to build his business? [2]

- c. Which sentence in the passage tells you that the astrologer was skillful in telling the person about his life without being an expert? [1]
  - d. What was common between the astrologer and his customers? [2]
  - e. Mention two aspects of the astrologer's appearance which helped to create an impression on his clients? [2]
4. In not than 50 words describe the lighting where the astrologer set up his business. [8]

### Question 5

- a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in the brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the of the word phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Single combat is a duel between two single warriors which 1 (take) place in the context of a battle between two armies. It 2 (know) to exist ever since the first man appeared on earth. Early man had to 3 (hunt) for his food and he 4 (use) the same weapons in single combat as he did for 5 (hunt). The development of weapons from the early clubs to the sword varied from country to country. In the sixteenth century, fencing 6 (bring) to England by the Italians. Junior fencers 7 (gain) their qualifications by 8 (fight) for a prize before their peers.

- b) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words: [4]

1. Are you for it or \_\_\_ it?
2. She hopes to carry \_\_\_ with her tasks without any disruption.
3. We need to figure \_\_\_ a solution to this problem.
4. If you do not comply \_\_\_ the traffic rules, you will fall into trouble.
5. He always turns \_\_\_ late to the meetings.
6. After Aunt Clara left there was no one to look \_\_\_ poor little George.
7. You have been advised by the scientist to get \_\_\_ the car right now.
8. They decided to give \_\_\_ their old clothes to the children of 'The Foundation'.

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

1. He jumped up. He ran away.
  - a. He jumped up before he ran away.
  - b. Jumping up, he ran away.
  - c. He ran away after jumping.
  - d. He ran away because he jumped up.
2. He has failed many times. Still he hopes to succeed.
  - a. He succeeds after he failed many times.
  - b. Despite of failing, he hopes to succeed.
  - c. In spite of many failures, he hopes to succeed.
  - d. He failed many times even though he hopes to succeed.
3. Do not be a jeweller. Do not be a goldsmith.
  - a. Be neither a jeweller nor a goldsmith.
  - b. Be both a jeweller and a goldsmith.
  - c. Either be a jeweller or a goldsmith.
  - d. Be a jeweller as well as a goldsmith.
4. A cottager and his wife had a hen. The hen laid an egg every day.
  - a. Everyday, a hen laid an egg for a cottager and his wife.
  - b. A cottager and his wife had a hen who laid an egg every day.
  - c. The cottager and his wife had an egg everyday because they had a hen.
  - d. A cottager and his wife had a hen which laid an egg every day.



d) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. [8]

1. "Come into my parlour," said the spider to the fly. (*Begin with: The spider...*)
  - a. The spider invited the fly to come into its parlour.
  - b. The spider said to the fly to come into the parlour.
  - c. The spider said the fly must come into its parlour.
  - d. The spider invited the fly to come into the parlour.
2. The journey was full of perils. (*Write the adjective form of 'Peril'*)
  - a. The journey was perilous.
  - b. The journey was periled.
  - c. The journey was perilsed.
  - d. The journey was full of perilous.
3. A glass of juice is as good as a glass of water. (*Use: than*)
  - a. A glass of water is better than a glass of juice.
  - b. A glass of water is not better than a glass of juice.
  - c. A glass of water is as good as a glass of juice.
  - d. A glass of juice is better than a glass of water.
4. She completed her assignments and helped her mother too. (*Begin: Not only...*)
  - a. Not only were her assignments complete but also she helped her mother.
  - b. Not only did she complete her assignments but also helped her mother.
  - c. Not only did she complete her assignments but also her mother's work.
  - d. Not only did she complete her assignments but she also helped her mother.
5. He had only his daughter with him. (*Change to Negative*)
  - a. He did not have his son with him.
  - b. He had no one except his daughter with him.
  - c. He did not have his daughter with him.
  - d. He did not have anyone but his son with him.
6. I would do this if you allow me. (*Use: unless*)
  - a. I will not do this unless you allow me.
  - b. I would not do this unless you allow me.
  - c. I wouldn't have done this unless you had allowed me.
  - d. Unless you allow me, how can I do this?
7. We will never forget what we saw. (*Begin: Never...*)
  - a. Never forget what we see.
  - b. Never will we forget what we had seen.
  - c. Never will we see what we forget.
  - d. Never will we forget what we see.
8. Some boys were helping the wounded man. (*Begin: The wounded...*)
  - a. The wounded man was helping some boys.
  - b. The wounded man were helping some boys.
  - c. The wounded man was being helped by some boys.
  - d. The wounded boys were helping the man.

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