



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2023-24)

CLASS – IX

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: 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 five questions.

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

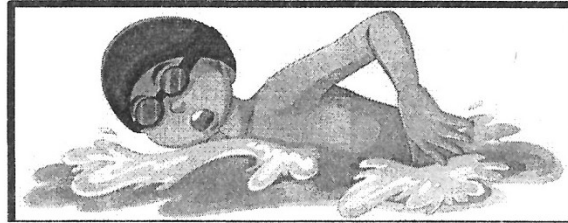
You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

Question 1 (Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

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

[20]

- (i) While walking along a lonely road in the sunset you saw a small child lying on the roadside crying. Narrate what followed subsequently and how you planned further.
- (ii) Scientists have invented things for increasing human amenities, which we use daily and take for granted. Life in summer becomes intolerable if there is a power failure. Think of two such worthwhile inventions of technology and give a description of each to show how it helps human beings.
- (iii) We are not as happy as our forefathers were.' Give your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) Write an imaginative story beginning with, 'The train I was travelling by stopped suddenly with a violent jerk.....'
- (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; 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.)

[10]

Select any one of the following:

- (i) Your father being away from home on business, write a letter telling him of the situation of things at home in his absence.
- (ii) Your grandfather is upset about the escalating prices and keeps thinking of his olden times when things were affordable. You too are convinced that inflation has made life difficult for the commoners. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper describing the difficulties experienced by impoverished families.

Question 3

- (i) Young astronauts need to be selected for 'Mission NASA'. The preliminary round will be held in your school. Write a notice inviting students who wish to become astronauts to take the preliminary round for the final selection. [5]
- (ii) Draft an email to the neighbouring school Principal about the event and its preliminary rounds and final selection. [5]

Question 4

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

The Airedale's name was Muggs, and he was, as I have said, the worst of all my dogs. A big, burly, choleric dog, he always acted as if he thought I wasn't one of the family. There was a slight advantage in being one of the family, for he didn't bite the family as often as he bit strangers.

One morning when Muggs bit me slightly, more or less in passing, I reached down and grabbed his short stumpy tail and hoisted him into the air. It was a foolhardy thing to do. As long as I held the dog off the floor by his tail, he couldn't get at me, but he twisted and jerked so, snarling all the time, that I realized I couldn't hold him that way for long. I carried him to the kitchen and flung him onto the floor and shut the door on him just as he crashed against it. But I forgot about the backstairs. Muggs went up the backstairs and down the front stairs and had me cornered in the living room. I managed to get up on the mantelpiece above the fireplace, but it gave way and came down with a tremendous crash, throwing a large marble clock, several vases and myself heavily to the floor. Muggs was so alarmed by the racket that when I picked myself up he had disappeared.

In his last years, Muggs used to spend practically all of his time outdoors. He didn't like to stay in the house for some reason or other – perhaps it held too many unpleasant memories for him. Anyway, it was hard to get him to come in, and as a result, the garbage man, the iceman and the laundryman wouldn't come near the house. We had to haul the garbage down the corner, take the laundry out and bring it back, and meet the iceman a block from home. After this had gone on for some time we hit on an ingenious arrangement for getting the dog into the house so that we could lock him up while the gas meter was read, and so on. Muggs was afraid of only one thing, an electrical storm. Thunder and lightning

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frightened him out of his senses. He would rush into the house and hide under a bed or in a clothes closet. So we fixed up a thunder machine out of a long narrow piece of sheet iron with a wooden handle on one end. Mother would shake this vigorously when she wanted to get Muggs into the house. It made an excellent imitation of thunder, but I suppose it was the most roundabout system for running a household that was ever devised. It took a lot out of my mother.

A few months before Muggs died, he got to 'seeing things'. He would rise slowly from the floor, growling low and stalk stiff-legged and menacing toward nothing at all. Sometimes the Thing would be just a little to the right or left of a visitor. Once a salesman got hysterics. Muggs came wandering into the room. His eyes were fixed on a spot just to the left of the salesman, who stood it until Muggs was just three paces from him. Then he shouted. Muggs wavered on past him into the hallway, grumbling to himself, but the salesman went on shouting. Mother had to throw a saucepan of cold water on him before he stopped. That was the way she used to stop us boys when we got into fights.

Muggs died suddenly one night. We buried him beside a lonely road with a smooth board above his grave.

- From The Dog That Bit People by James Thurber (adapted)

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. foolhardy

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| (a) peered | (c) foolishly brave |
| (b) lure | (d) in flexible |

2. devised

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (a) invent | (c) protect |
| (b) timid | (d) clear |

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word loosen [1]

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) gas meter | (c) growling |
| (b) garbage | (d) grabbed |

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words:

- (a) Muggs behaved a little differently than what was expected from a pet. What was the strange thing about Muggs? [2]
- (b) What did the narrator do when Muggs bit him slightly? [2]
- (c) What problems did Muggs create by staying outside the house? [2]
- (d) The family thought out a device to get Muggs into the house. What was the device? [1]
- (e) How did the mother use to stop the children when they got into fights? [2]

(iv) Describe within 50 words the changes that came in the behaviour of Muggs at different stages of his stay with the family. [8]

Question 5

(i) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. [4]

Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

Example:

(0) carrying

A giant plane, ...0... (carry) 43 passengers was forced to crash-land when its ...1... (land) gear ...2... (get) stuck. Only the skill of the pilot ...3... (prevent) a major tragedy. The landing gear ...4... (not come) down as it prepared to land at the airport. Expert mechanics laboured over the plane for three hours before they found what caused the mechanical ...5... (fail). What they found was almost unbelievable. A nut about as small as a pencil eraser ...6... (fall) into a channel, or had been picked up on the runway, and had prevented a pin from being withdrawn. This in turn kept the gear from ...7... (move). Small things, often determine the well-being of countless people. One incident can endanger the ...8... (safe) of a large number of people

(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word: [4]

- (a) The price of gold has not come _____ this year.
- (b) She has her property to fall back _____ in her old age.
- (c) Kindly desist _____ causing damage to my garden.
- (d) He has taken _____ painting as a hobby.
- (e) The factory turns _____ 5,000 bags of sugar per day.
- (f) I have disposed _____ the old books.
- (g) The king was blind _____ one eye.
- (h) Music is a passion _____ him.

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option. [4]

1. He saw a tiger. He ran immediately.
- (a) No sooner he saw the tiger, than he ran.
- (b) No sooner he had seen the tiger, than he ran.
- (c) No sooner did he see the tiger, than he ran.
- (d) No sooner did he see the tiger, he ran.

2. He tried hard. He did not succeed.
- (a) Trying hard, he did not succeed.
- (b) He tried hard and did not succeed.
- (c) In spite of trying hard, he didn't succeed.
- (d) He tried hard in spite of he didn't succeed.

3. She worked hard. She secured good marks.
(a) She worked hard but secured good marks.
(b) Since she worked hard, she secured good marks
(c) She worked hard yet secured good marks.
(d) Because she secured good marks, she worked hard.

4. They took the tickets and rushed into the theatre immediately.
(a) As soon as they rushed into the theatre, they took the tickets.
(b) When they rushed into the theatre, they took the tickets.
(c) Hardly had they taken the tickets, when they rushed into the theatre.
(d) Hardly they took the tickets and rushed into the theatre.

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

1. It is dangerous as well as illegal to ride a motorcycle without a helmet.

(Begin: It is not)

- (a) It is not dangerous but illegal to ride a motorcycle without a helmet
(b) It is not only dangerous but also illegal to ride a motorcycle without a helmet
(c) It is not only dangerous and also illegal to ride a motorcycle without a helmet
(d) It is not only dangerous and illegal to ride a motorcycle without a helmet

2. Nima would rather read a book than watch a movie.

(Rewrite using 'Prefer'.)

- (a) Nima would rather prefer the movie to the book
(b) Nima would prefer reading a book to watching a movie
(c) Nima would prefer watched a movie to reading a book
(d) Nima would prefer the book to watching a movie

3. He said, "Will you listen to such a man?"

(Begin: He asked)

- (a) He asked them to listen to such a man
(b) He asked them would you listen to such a man
(c) He asked them whether they would listen to such a man
(d) He asked them not to listen to such a man

4. If you tell me the truth, I shall not punish you.

(Use: 'unless')

- (a) Unless you tell me the truth, I shall punish you.
(b) Unless I punish you, you shall not tell me the truth.
(c) Unless I punish you, you shall tell me the truth.
(d) Unless you tell me the truth, I shall not punish you.

5. In spite of repeated warnings Anshul paid no heed.

(Use: 'Despite')

- (a) Despite paying repeated warnings Anshul does not heed.
(b) Despite repeated warnings Anshul paid no heed.
(c) Despite paying no heed Anshul has been repeatedly warned.
(d) Despite of repeated warning Anshul paid no heed.

6. The news has been brought to us by him.

(Begin: He....)

- (a) He brought us the news
(b) He was brought the news to us
(c) He has brought us the news
(d) He bought us the news

7. The National Anthem began when I reached school.

(Begin: No sooner)

- (a) No sooner had the national Anthem began then I reached school
(b) No sooner had I reached school than the National Anthem began
(c) No sooner do the National Anthem begin than I reached school
(d) No sooner had I reached school then the National Anthem began

8. Richard is too weak to walk.

(Begin: Richard is so)

- (a) Richard is so weak so he cannot walk
(b) Richard is so weak to walk
(c) Richard is so weak that he cannot walk
(d) Richard is so weak that he can walk