

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2025-26)
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 reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed to write 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 answering **Question 1** and 20 minutes 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) Write an original story that ends with, '..... I walked back home, sadder but wiser'.
- (ii) We all have experienced a class without the teacher. Narrate an account of such an experience and the lesson it taught you.
- (iii) 'The mouse is mightier than the pen.' Express your views either for or against the statement. Give relevant arguments to support your opinion.
- (iv) Your parents had gone out of station to attend a wedding, leaving the entire household in your custody. You went to the market to buy something. When you returned home, your pet, a labrador puppy was not there. Describe the feelings you had at that time, the efforts you made to find your pet and finally how you got it back.
- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture 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 younger brother spends most of his time playing games on the computer. As a result he is always tired and cranky. Write a letter to your brother asking him to utilise his free time by doing some physical exercise and mention about its importance.
- (ii) There is a sudden increase in the number of unclaimed cars on the roads in a broken down condition in your area. Write a letter to the editor of a reputed newspaper bringing to his notice about this growing menace.

Question 3.

(i) Your school is organizing a fire safety programme for students of grade VII to X. Draft a notice to be put up on the notice board informing students about the session.

[5]

(ii) Send an e-mail to the local fire station, requesting a Fire Officer to conduct a session on fire safety measures and its importance in the school premises for the students.

[5]

Question 4.

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

Billy Weaver had travelled down from London on the slow afternoon train, with a change at Swindon on the way, and by the time he got to Bath, it was about nine o'clock in the evening and the moon was coming up out of a clear starry sky.

There were no shops on this wide street that he was walking along, only a line of tall houses on each side, all of them identical. They had porches and pillars and four or five steps going up to their front doors, and it was obvious that once upon a time they had been very swanky residences. But now, even in the darkness, he could see that the paint was peeling from the woodwork on their doors and windows, and that the handsome white facades were cracked and blotchy from neglect.

Suddenly, Billy caught sight of a printed notice propped up against the glass. It said BED AND BREAKFAST. There was a vase of yellow chrysanthemums, standing just underneath the notice. Green curtains were hanging down on either side of the window. The chrysanthemums looked wonderful beside them. He peered through the glass into the room, and saw a bright fire burning in the hearth.

On the carpet in front of the fire, a dachshund was curled up asleep. The room itself, so far as he could see in the half-darkness, was filled with pleasant furniture. There was a baby-grand piano and a big sofa and several plump armchairs; and in one corner he spotted a large parrot in a cage. Animals were usually a big sign in a place like this, Billy told himself, and all in all, it looked to him as though it would be a pretty decent house to stay in. Certainly it would be more comfortable than The Bell and Dragon

On the other hand, a pub would be more congenial than a boarding-house. There would be beer and darts in the evenings, and lots of people to talk to, and it would probably be a good bit cheaper, too. He had stayed a couple of nights in a pub once before and he had liked it. He had never stayed in any boarding-houses, and, to be perfectly honest, he was a tiny bit frightened of them. The name itself conjured up images of watery cabbage, **rapacious** landladies, and a powerful smell of kippers in the living-room.

After **dithering** about like this in the cold for two or three minutes, Billy decided that he would walk on and take a look at The Bell and Dragon before making up his mind. He turned to go and now a queer thing happened to him.

BED AND BREAKFAST, it said. Each word was like a large black eye staring at him through the glass, forcing him to stay where he was and not to walk away from that house. The next thing he knew, he was actually moving across from the window to the front door of the house.

(Adapted from 'The Landlady' by Roald Dahl)

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

1. **Rapacious** (line 25)

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| (a) Greedy | (c) Whimsical |
| (b) Old | (d) Intimidating |

2. **Dithering** (line 27)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) Pondering | (c) Wandering |
| (b) Hesitating | (d) Haggling |

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word **unpleasant**? [1]

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (a) Congenial | (c) Blotchy |
| (b) Queer | (d) Decent |

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

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) How do you know that Billy had a long train ride? | [2] |
| (b) What did Billy observe about the wide street that he was walking along? | [2] |
| (c) Why does Billy think staying at a pub would be a comforting option? | [2] |
| (d) Why was Billy 'a tiny bit frightened' of boarding houses? | [2] |
| (e) Which sentence in the passage tells us that Billy was unable to take his eyes off 'The Bed and Breakfast'? | [1] |

(iv) In not more than 50 words, describe the aspects of The Bed and Breakfast that made Billy feel that it would be a good place to stay. [8]

Question 5.

(i) 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 the correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

Specific real-life objects and activities like your television set or a game of football can be your thought starters and luck 0 _____(make). [4]

Example: (0) makers

There was once a famous writer (1) _____(name) Arthur J. Burks who boasted that he could take any object and make a story out of it. An interviewer for Reader's Digest once tested him by (2) _____(point) to a door-knob. Burks (3) _____(go) into a trance and (4) _____(come) up with the plot for a detective story (5) _____(feature) a cache of stolen diamonds (6) _____(hide) in the hollow interior of the knob. The interviewer (7) _____(tiptoe) away as the slow tap-tap of Burks' typewriter (8) _____(become) increasingly noisy.

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

- | |
|---|
| (a) The officer was rewarded _____ his hard work. |
| (b) The Principal will preside _____ the meeting. |
| (c) He was amazed _____ their ignorance. |
| (d) He was charged _____ murder. |
| (e) We must be true _____ our word. |
| (f) The boy was struck _____ dengue due to the mosquito menace. |
| (g) I can tell you what this chocolate was wrapped _____. |

(h) This is the man you were talking _____.

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

[4]

1. The magician took pity on the mouse. He turned it into a cat.
 - (a) Showing pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.
 - (b) Taking pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.
 - (c) The magician turned the mouse into a cat by taking pity.
 - (d) Taking pity on the mouse the magician turned it into a cat.
2. This work must be completed. There is a deadline.
 - (a) Since this work must be completed, there is a deadline.
 - (b) This work must be completed because there is a deadline.
 - (c) This work must be completed though there is a deadline.
 - (d) This work must be completed when there is a deadline.
3. He fled somewhere. His pursuers could not follow him.
 - (a) He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.
 - (b) He pursued somewhere his followers could not flee.
 - (c) He fled somewhere when his pursuers could not follow him.
 - (d) He fled where his pursuers cannot follow him.
4. He began late. He finished first.
 - (a) He finished first and began late.
 - (b) He began first but finished late.
 - (c) Though he finished late, he began first.
 - (d) Though he began late, he finished first.

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

[8]

- (i) It is expected that the conflict between the two states will end soon. (Begin: The conflict....)
 - (a) The conflict between the two states is expected to end soon.
 - (b) The conflict will end soon today.
 - (c) The conflict have to end soon between the two states.
 - (d) The conflict between the two states will have be ending soon.
- (ii) Besides being hardworking, he is intelligent. (Use: not only.... but also)
 - (a) Not only hardworking he is but also intelligent.
 - (b) He is not only hardworking but also he is intelligent.
 - (c) He is not only as hardworking but also intelligent.
 - (d) He is not only hardworking but also intelligent.
- (iii) He is better than any other student in the class. (Begin: No other)
 - (a) No other students is as good as him.
 - (b) None of the students are good.
 - (c) No other in the class is a good student than him.
 - (d) No other student in the class is as good as him.
- (iv) She speaks French fluently, _____? (add question tag)
 - (a) She speaks French fluently, isn't she?
 - (b) She speaks French fluently, doesn't she?
 - (c) She speaks French fluently, does she?
 - (d) She speaks French fluently, didn't she?
- (v) Greenland island is the largest island in the world. (use... larger)
 - (a) Greenland island is larger island in the world.
 - (b) Greenland is larger than any other island in the world.
 - (c) Greenland is larger than so other island in the world.
 - (d) Greenland is largest than any other island in the world.
- (vi) They had to spend a night in the hotel because the train was late. (Begin: If.....)
 - (a) If the train was not late, they would not have had to stay in the hotel.
 - (b) If the train had been on time, they would not have needed to stay in the hotel.
 - (c) If the train was punctual, they would have avoided staying overnight in the hotel.
 - (d) If the train had not been late they would not have had to spend a night in a hotel.
- (vii) Our secret plan has been discovered. (Begin: Someone....)
 - (a) Someone has discovered our secret plan.
 - (b) Someone have discovered our secret plan.
 - (c) Someone is discovered our secret plan.
 - (d) Someone's secret plan has been discovered.
- (viii) The result surprised everybody in the country. (Begin: The result took.....)
 - (a) The result took nobody in the country by surprise.
 - (b) The result took only a few people in the country by surprise.
 - (c) The result took the whole nation by surprise.
 - (d) The result took everybody in the country by surprise.