



BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2025-26)
CLASS - X
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(Time allowed: Two hours)

Maximum Marks: 80

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets []. You may spend no more than 30 minutes in 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]

- i. Author an original short story with a beginning "The house on the hill stood lonely and derelict..."
- ii. Jules Reynard once said, "Laziness is nothing but a habit of resting before you get tired." Reflect on a time when you or someone you know dealt with laziness or procrastination. Narrate in detail what happened, the challenges faced, the turning point and what lessons did you learn from the experience.
- iii. Last weekend you attended a 'Heritage Lane Street Food Festival' in your city. Recount your visit, what you saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and felt. Highlight one personal moment, tasting a new dish or chatting with a vendor and explain why the evening is still a wonderful memory.
- iv. "Visual appeal in the food industry has become more important than taste -thanks to social media" Express your views **for** or **against** the statement.
- v. Study the picture given below. Draft a short 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

Select any one of the following:

[10]

- i. Write a letter to your friend describing a recent road trip you took during your school holidays. Mention where you went, what activities you did, and share an experience from the trip that was especially memorable.
- ii. You have noticed that the drainage system near your housing society has been poorly maintained. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your city, highlighting the issue and suggesting steps that can be taken to improve the situation for the residents.

Question 3

[10]

- i. Your school is organising an inter school Traditional Folk Dance Competition to celebrate the monsoon season. All songs should be based on the theme 'Rain'. Write a notice inviting pupils from grades IX and X to take part in the event.
- ii. Write an email to a renowned folk dancer of your city, inviting her to be the Chief Guest and Judge for the upcoming inter school Traditional Folk Dance Competition hosted by your school. Be sure you include important details of the event.

Question 4

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

Eighteen miles from our summer home in the Himalayas there is a long ridge running east and west, some 9000 feet in height. On the upper slopes of the eastern end of this ridge there is a *luxuriant* growth of oat grass, below the grass the hill falls steeply away in a series of rock cliffs to the Kosi River below.

One day a party of women and girls from the village on the north face of the ridge were cutting the oat grass, when a tiger suddenly appeared in their midst. In the stampede that followed, an elderly woman lost her footing, rolled down the steep slope, and disappeared over the cliff.

The tiger, evidently alarmed by the screams of the women, vanished as mysteriously as it had appeared, and when the women had reassembled and recovered from their fright, they went down the grassy slope and, looking over the cliff, saw their companion lying on a narrow ledge some distance below them.

The woman told them that she was gravely injured. It was found later that she had broken a leg and fractured several ribs and that she could not move. Ways and means of a rescue were discussed, and it was finally decided that it was a job of the men, and as no one appeared to be willing to remain at the spot, they informed the injured woman that they were going back to the village for help. The woman begged not to be left alone, however, and at her *entreaty*, a girl, sixteen years of age, volunteered to stay with her.

So, while the rest of the party set off for the village, the girl made her way down to the right where the rift in the cliff enabled her to get a foothold on the ledge. This ledge only extended halfway across the face of the cliff and ended, a few yards from where the woman was lying, in a shallow depression. Fearing that she might fall off the ledge and be killed on the rocks hundreds of feet below, the woman asked the girl to move her to this depression, and this difficult and dangerous feat the girl successfully accomplished. There was only room for one in the depression, so the girl squatted on the ledge facing the woman. The village was four miles away, and the two of them speculated about the length of time it would take for their companions to get back to the village, what men they were likely to find there at that time of day, how long it would take to explain what had happened, and finally, how long it would take for the rescue party to arrive.

Conversations about the tiger lurking in the vicinity were fresh. There was fear among the villagers. Suddenly the woman gave a gasp, and the girl seeing the look of horror on her face, turned her head and over her shoulder she saw the tiger, stepping out of the rift in the cliff.

Few of us, I imagine, have escaped that worst of all nightmares in which our limbs and vocal cords are paralysed with fear, some terrible beast in monstrous form approaches to destroy us, the nightmare from which, sweating fear in every pore, we waken with a cry of thankfulness to heaven that it was only a dream. There was no such happy awakening from the nightmare of that unfortunate girl, and little imagination is needed to picture the scene. A rock cliff with a narrow ledge running partly across it and ending in a little depression in which an injured woman is lying, a young girl frozen with terror squatting on the ledge, and a tiger slowly creeping towards her, a retreat in every direction cut off, and no help at hand.

*-Adapted from 'The Man-eaters of Kumaon' by
Jim Corbett*

1. For each word/phrase given below, choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided [2]
 - i. luxuriant
 - a) abundant
 - b) luxurious
 - c) scanty
 - d) radiant
 - ii. entreaty
 - a) force
 - b) request
 - c) cry
 - d) demand
2. Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'vaguely' [1]
 - a) mysteriously
 - b) successfully
 - c) evidently
 - d) sleepily
3. Answer the questions briefly in your own words

- a. What happened when the girls and women were cutting oat grass at the foot of the hills? [1]
- b. What did the women see when they had reassembled and recovered from their fright? [2]
- c. Why was no one willing to stay with the injured lady? Who volunteered to stay with her? [2]
- d. What did the injured lady and the girl reason while waiting for help? [2]
- e. The author states that there was no such awakening for the girl. Why does he say so? [2]
4. In not more than 50 words, what happened after the party set off to the village. [8]

Question 5

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

Answer: (0) Having

(0) ____ (have) searched my pockets in vain for stray coppers, I (1) ____ (tell) the conductor that I (2) ____ (can not) pay the fare and (3) ____ (must) go back for money.

"I'll book you through," he replied. "Where (4) ____ (you go)?" And he handled his bundle of tickets with the air of a man, who (5) ____ (prepared) to give me a ticket for anywhere. Then, luckily my fingers, still (6) ____ (wander) in the corner of my pocket, (7) ____ (light) on a shilling and the account was (8) ____ (square).

2. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [4]

- i. The chairman says that he will look ____ their companies.
- ii. The soldiers laid ____ their lives defending their country.
- iii. The ailing company was taken ____ by the government.
- iv. The best candidate should be appointed ____ the post.
- v. On a table pushed ____ the wall, there were bottles of lemonade.
- vi. Sana often keeps a prayer book ____ her pillow.
- vii. Aunt Durrell carried on working late ____ the night.
- viii. If you are planning to invest in stocks, I advice you to look ____ you leap.

3. Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using **and**, **but** or **so**: [4]

- i) The farmers bowed to God in gratitude. The harvest had been splendid.
 - a) The farmers bowed to God in gratitude because the harvest had been splendid.
 - b) The harvest was splendid enough so the farmers bowed to God in gratitude.
 - c) The farmers bowed to God in gratitude because the harvest was splendid.
 - d) The farmers bowed to God in gratitude because the harvest is splendid.
- ii) There are things in the chest. They are all valuable.
 - a) There are a few valuable things in the chest.
 - b) All the things in the chest are valuable.
 - c) Some things in the chest are valuable.
 - d) All the things that are in the chest are somewhat valuable.
- iii) We decided to spend time with the locals. We wanted to explore their culture.
 - a) We spent time with the locals to explore their culture.
 - b) We decided spending time with the locals to explore their culture.
 - c) We decide to spend time with the locals to explore their culture.
 - d) We decided to spend time with the locals to explore their culture.
- iv) You are suggesting something. Tell me that.
 - a) Tell me what you are suggesting.
 - b) Tell me what are you suggesting.
 - c) Tell me your suggestion.
 - d) Tell me that what you are suggesting.

4. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of the sentence. Choose the correct option. [8]

- i) I saw a snake as soon as I entered the garden. (*Begin with: Hardly...*)
 - a) Hardly had I entered the garden when I saw the snake.
 - b) Hardly did I enter the garden when I saw the snake.
 - c) Hardly do I enter the garden when I see the snake.
 - d) Hardly did I enter the garden than I saw the snake.
- ii) The house needs a thorough cleaning again. (*Use: thoroughly*)
 - a) The house needs thoroughly cleaning again.
 - b) The house needed a cleaning thoroughly again.

- c) The house needs to be cleaned thoroughly again.
- d) The house needed to be thoroughly clean yet again.
- iii) Only my grandmother came to see me. (*Use: but*)
 - a) None but only my grandmother came to see me.
 - b) None but my grandmother came to see me.
 - c) None but his grandmother came to see me.
 - d) But my grandmother came to see me.
- iv) The artist painted a vibrant and captivating masterpiece (*Begin: A vibrant...*)
 - a) A vibrant and captivating masterpiece was being painted by the artist.
 - b) A vibrant and captivating masterpiece is painted by the artist.
 - c) A vibrant and captivating masterpiece was painted by the artist.
 - d) A vibrant and captivating masterpiece had been painted by the artist.
- v) Even though he was selected for the post, he did not join the office. (*Begin: despite...*)
 - a) Despite of being selected for the post, he did not join the office.
 - b) Despite being selected for the post, he did not join the office.
 - c) Despite of being selected for the post, he did join the office.
 - d) Despite of not being selected for the post, he did not join the office.
- vi) Clara is not the cleverest girl in the class. (*End... Clara*)
 - a) All other girls in the class are not cleverer than Clara.
 - b) Most other girls in the class are cleverer than Clara.
 - c) Many other girls in the class are cleverer than Clara.
 - d) Many of the girls in the class are cleverer than Clara.
- vii) If Lakshman is completely fit, he will appear for the examinations. (*Begin: Unless...*)
 - a) Unless Lakshman is completely fit, he will appear for the board examinations.
 - b) Unless Lakshman is completely fit, he will give the board examinations.
 - c) Unless Lakshman is completely fit, he will not appear for the board examinations.
 - d) Unless if Lakshman is completely fit, he will be exempted from the examinations.
- viii) Amir was too embarrassed to speak. (*Begin: Amir was so...*)
 - a) Amir was so embarrassed that he could not speak.
 - b) Amir was so embarrassed to speak.
 - c) Amir was so embarrassed that he spoke.
 - d) Amir was so embarrassed that he couldn't speak.
