



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2023-24)

CLASS - X

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 topics: *any* [20]

- Narrate an incident from your own experience when you helped a friend who was in trouble. Explain what happened. What did you do to make the situation better?
- You had been waiting outside the examination hall. Describe what you saw and the sounds you heard when you arrived at the place. What were your feelings? Describe how the scene changed as you entered the hall and the examination started.
- "School days are the happiest days of our lives." Express your views either **for** or **against** the statement.
- Write an original short story in which two children and their grandfather are the main characters.
- Study the picture given below. Write 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

[10]

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question)

Select **any one** of the following:

- You want to start a new club at your school. Write a letter to the Principal of your school requesting permission to start the club, explain your role in it and give reasons to prove as to how the club will be beneficial for the students of the school.
- Write a letter to your cousin describing your visit to an animal shelter.

Question 3

- Your Housing Society is organising a Cooking Contest for the member of your society. Write a notice to be put up on the RWA notice board of your

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society informing the residents about the contest. [5]

- b) Write an e-mail to a celebrity Chef and restaurateur requesting him/her to be the judge at the event and request a sponsorship for the event. [5]

Question 4.

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

In the little hut of Artyom, the forester, a young man who had been out hunting, had come in the night. Outside the window the darkness of the night was full of the noisy uproar into which nature usually breaks out before a thunderstorm.

"I tell you what," said Artyom. "I am not afraid of wolves or bears, or wild beasts of any sort, but I am afraid of man. You can save yourself from beasts with a gun or some other weapon, but you have no means of saving yourself from a wicked man. I've been a forester for thirty years, and I couldn't tell you what I have had to put up with from wicked men. There have been lots and lots of them here. The hut's on a track, it's a cart road, and that brings them, the devils. And there are some that ask for money. Tell me, where is your money? How should I come by money?"

"You seem to be frightened of me, too," said the young man. Then the young man and the forester fell to listening with their eyes fixed on the window. As the wind tore at the roof, it brought repeatedly a distinct shout for help!

"What a night what a night!" the young man **muttered**. It is the time for a robbery. Do you hear? The forester looked at the young man, and sank on to the bench, collapsing like a man **terrified** by sudden bad news. He said in tearful voice, "You might go into the passage and bolt the door. And we must put out the light. By ill-luck they may find their way here."

"We ought to be going, and you talk of bolting the door! What are you afraid of? Haven't you got a gun? Let us go. There was a shot again. Get up!"

"What do you think of me lad?" said the forester. "Do you think I am such a fool to go straight to my **undoing**?" The young man with his dog went out. Not more than ten minutes later there was a loud knock at the door. The forester went to the door. The young man and his dog were drenched to the skin. They had come in for the heaviest of the downpour.

"A peasant woman driving in a cart; she had got off the road...." Answered the young man." She was caught in the thicket and was injured. I know now that you are a scoundrel and the lowest of men. And you are a forester, too, getting a salary!"

"And suppose you are shouting for help!?" said the young man, breaking the silence. "How would you feel, you beast, if no one ran to your aid? You have upset me with your meanness. You must have money to be afraid of people! A man who is poor is not likely to be afraid. I'd like to take and rob you for spite, to teach you a lesson!"

Artyom first sat down. Big tears rolled from his eyes. The young man looked at his tearful face, frowned, then picked up his gun and walked away.

- i) For each of the words give below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
- a) muttered
 - 1) speak out
 - 2) grumbled
 - 3) submissive
 - 4) subservient
 - b) undoing
 - 1) recover
 - 2) build
 - 3) ruin
 - 4) aim
- ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word **terrified**? [1]
- 1) scared
 - 2) Prize
 - 3) frighten
 - 4) confident
- iii) Answer the following question briefly in your own words.
- a) Who was the young man? Why had he come to Artyom's hut? [2]
 - b) Of whom was Artyom scared? Why? [2]
 - c) What did Artyom and the young man hear? Why did Artyom decide

- not to go out? [2]
- d) Whom did the young man save outside Artyom's hut? What was his condition when he returned to Artyom's hut? [2]
- e) What kind of weather was there outside Artyom's hut? [1]
- iv) In not more than 50 words of your own, summarise the character of Artyom [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 correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

A monk noticed a small boy trying.....(1)(press) the doorbell of a house across the street. The boy was short and he could not reach the switch to press the bell. After.....(2)(watch) the boy's efforts for some time, the monk stepped across the street(3)(walk) up behind the little boy and,.....(4)(place) one hand on the child's shoulder,(5)(lean) over him and gave the doorbell a solid ring.....(6)(Crouch) down to the child's level, the monk smiled and asked, "And now what to do my little man?" The urchin(7)(reply), "Now we cannot face the old lady. So we(8)(run) like Hell!"

- ii) Fill in the blank with an appropriate word. [4]

1. Courage will carry a man many hardships.
2. She set.....organising the exhibition.
3. We are looking to the visit of our uncle.
4. His statement does not correspondyours.
5. He let.....his friends.
6. We can no longer put.....with his insincerity.
7. The soldiers fought.....the last man.
8. Music is a passion.....him.

- iii) Join the following sentences to make a complete sentence **without using and, but** or so. [4]

1. She is a doctor. She is a model.
 - a. She is a doctor, she is a model.
 - b. Besides being a doctor, she is a model.
 - c. Beside being a doctor, she is a model.
 - d. Besides being a doctor she is model.
2. We have to water the plants. Otherwise they will die.
 - a. Unless you water the plants will die.
 - b. Unless we water the plant, they will die.
 - c. Unless we water the plants, they will die.
 - d. Unless we water the plant will die.
3. Neeta will come to the party. I am sure about this.
 - a. Neeta will come to the party.
 - b. I am sure that Neeta will come to the party.
 - c. Neeta and I will come to the party surely.
 - d. Neeta is sure that I will come to the party.
4. The hall was small. It was crowded.
 - a. Though the hall was small, it was crowded.
 - b. Though the hall was small it was crowded.
 - c. The hall was small so it was crowded.
 - d. Though hall was small, it was crowded.

- iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions

1. If he is careless, he will not succeed. (Begin: Unless.....)
 - a. Unless he is careless, he will not succeed.
 - b. Unless he is careless he will succeed.
 - c. Unless he is careless, he will succeed.
 - d. Unless he careless, he will succeed.

2. Do you mean to go abroad? (Use: intention)
 - a. Do you have the intention of going abroad?
 - b. Do you have the intentions of going abroad.
 - c. Do you have the intentions, of going abroad?
 - d. You have the intentions of going abroad.

3. Preserve and you will succeed. (Begin: You will succeed only.....)
 - a. You will succeed only if they preserve.
 - b. You will succeed only if you preserve.
 - c. You will only succeed if you persevere.
 - d. You will only, succeed only if you preserve.

4. As soon as he heard the news, he rushed home. (Use: no sooner)
 - a. No sooner he heard the news he rushed home.
 - b. No sooner did he heard the news, than he rushed home.
 - c. No sooner did he hear the news, than he rushed home.
 - d. No sooner he hear the news he rushed home.

5. He said to me, "Let us have a cup of tea." (Use: suggested)
 - a. He suggested me to have a cup of tea.
 - b. He suggested me that we should have a cup of tea.
 - c. He suggested we should have a cup of coffee.
 - d. He suggested to me that we should have a cup of tea.

6. The new regulation made the people happy. (End:to the people.)
 - a. The news regulation brought happiness to the people.
 - b. The new regulation brought happiness to the peoples.
 - c. The new regulations brought happiness to the people.
 - d. The new regulation brought happiness to the people.

7. Mr. Majumdar told the children not to play with fire. (End: ".....," said Mr. Majumdar.)
 - a. "Do not play with fire children" said Mr. Majumdar.
 - b. "Do not play with fire children," said Mr. Majumdar.
 - c. "Do not play with fire," said Mr. Majumdar.
 - d. "Children do not play," said Mr. Majumdar.

8. She is too proud to accept any help. (Begin: She is so.....)
 - a. She is so proud that she does not accept any help.
 - b. She is so proud that she, does not accept any help.
 - c. She is so proud that does not accept any help.
 - d. She is so proud that she accept any help.
