



## ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2024

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CLASS - X

TIME: 2 Hours

MM: 80

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

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

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

Q 1) Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following:

[20]

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

1. Traffic jams are a common sight now. You also must have experienced it. Describe the scene, your experience, reaction of people and the constable on duty.
2. It is said that the best way of learning about life is by listening to the advice of the family and friends. Narrate how the advice given by your grandmother helped you in the time of adversity.
3. Express your views either for or against the statement: "We ourselves are responsible for our ill health in modern times."
4. Write an original story which begins with the line: "As I unlocked the dilapidated door, I saw a small child bound and gagged on the stony floor..."
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.



Q 2) Select any one of the following:

[10]

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

1. Your cousin has not fared well in the recent examinations. Write a letter to him/her expressing your concern. Give him/her advice on how to score better marks and offer to help him/her to improve his/her performance.
2. Your pocket was picked while standing in line to pay your fees in the bank. Write a letter to the manager of the bank informing him of the incident and requesting that measures be taken to prevent such an incident from taking place again.

Q 3) i) Your school is hosting an Inter-school Power Point Presentation Competition for classes IX and X.

Write out a notice to be put up in your school informing the pupils about the event and inviting them to participate in it.

[5]

ii) Write an e-mail to a Power Point Specialist inviting him/her to be the judge for the competition. [5]

Q 4) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Vicomte inherited a large house from his uncle. He learned that populated by tenants, the building was fetching huge revenues. "Too much, too much entirely," thought the generous Vicomte, "my uncle was too hard to rent out the units at this *exorbitant* price. I will begin tomorrow to lower the rents and my tenants will bless me."

With this excellent purpose in view, Vicomte notified all the tenants that their rents were lowered by one-third thereafter. The unheard of word 'lower' fell like a brick on the head of Bernard - the caretaker of the building.

"Lower the rents!" he stammered. "Never was such a big thing known. Truly"



Vicomte interrupted Bernard and strictly commanded him to follow orders, without any debate. Staggering Bernard went out, all his ideas upset, overthrown, *confounded*.

Next morning, Bernard, buttoning himself into his best coat, made the rounds of the lodges to announce the great news. Ten minutes later the whole house was in commotion. People were clustered together and chatted eagerly. A few of them wrote to the proprietor to warn him that his caretaker has completely lost his mind. Vicomte responded, confirming what Bernard had said. Now began a round of reflections and commentaries.

“An intelligent man would never deprive himself of fat revenues. This kind of conduct is surely forced by powerful and terrible circumstances.”

“This man must have committed a great and hidden crime; *remorse* pushes him to charity.”

“The house perhaps, was badly built?” questioned another anxiously.

“Perhaps there is a press for printing counterfeit money in the cellar,” added a basement lodger.

Another gentleman suggested that the proprietor proposed to set fire to this house to draw huge sums from the insurance companies.

From worry it had come to fright; from fright it quickly passed to terror. Everybody left the place in couple of weeks. From top to bottom, from foundation to attic, the house lay empty of lodgers. After a few months, following a more frightful nightmare even Bernard gave his keys and scampered away.

The accursed house now stands completely abandoned, so dismal is its reputation that even the neighbouring houses on either sides of it depreciated in value. Dust thickens upon the closed gates and the courtyard. Lower the rent! Who would think of such a thing!

1. For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
  - a) Exorbitant
    - i) Moderate
    - ii) Stiff
    - iii) Endless
    - iv) Excessive
  - b) Confounded
    - i) Stagger
    - ii) Dumbfounded
    - iii) Unnerve
    - iv) Dismay
2. Which word in the passage is the opposite of ‘remorse’? [1]
  - a) Guilt
  - b) Indifferent
  - c) Impenitence
  - d) Regret
3. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:
  - a) Why did Vicomte lower the rent? [2]
  - b) What was Bernard’s reaction to the decision? [1]
  - c) How did the tenants react immediately after Bernard informed them that their rents have been lowered? [2]
  - d) Mention some of the weird reasons the tenants offered for the proprietor’s strange action? [2]
  - e) Eventually, what happened to the house? [2]
4. In not more than 50 words, narrate how a generous gesture by the proprietor was mistaken by the tenants and brought about adverse consequences. [8]

**Q 5) 1.** 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 the answers in correct serial order)

Example:

(0) Quasimodo \_\_\_\_\_ (refuse) to fly.

Answer: refused

He \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (insist) on sleeping in the house; no amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (coax) or scolding would get him to inhabit the pigeon-loft I \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (construct) for him. He \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (prefer) to sleep on the end of Margo's bed. Eventually, however, he \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (banish) to the drawing-room sofa, for if Margo \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (turn) over in bed at night Quasimodo \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (wake), hobble up the bed and perch on her face, \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (coo) loudly and lovingly.



2. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word:

[4]

- a) I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ associate my name with this project.
- b) The city has been under curfew \_\_\_\_\_ the riots started.
- c) Do not interfere \_\_\_\_\_ my work.

[2]

- d) The old man succumbed \_\_\_\_\_ his injuries.
- e) Are you dropping \_\_\_\_\_ of the examination this year?
- f) Who will give \_\_\_\_\_ the prizes?
- g) He is devoid \_\_\_\_\_ intelligence.
- h) The old man was run \_\_\_\_\_ by a speeding car.

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

1. I warned him several times. Yet, he broke the school rules.
  - a) Although I warned him several times, he broke the school rules.
  - b) Although I warned him several times, yet he broke the school rules.
  - c) Although I had warned him several times, still he broke the school rules.
  - d) Although I warned him several times, but he broke the school rules.
2. I bought a new piano. Immediately I took music lessons.
  - a) I bought a new piano and immediately took music lessons.
  - b) No sooner did I buy a new piano when I took music lessons.
  - c) Hardly did I buy a new piano than I took music lessons.
  - d) As soon as I bought a new piano, I took music lessons.
3. You cannot enter the examination hall. You do not have the admit card.
  - a) You cannot enter the examination hall unless you have the admit card.
  - b) You cannot enter the examination hall since you have the admit card.
  - c) You cannot enter the examination hall while you have the admit card.
  - d) You cannot enter the examination hall if you have the admit card.
4. The fans were on. It felt hot and humid.
  - a) In spite of the fans being on, it was feeling hot.
  - b) It felt hot and humid, but the fans were on.
  - c) It felt hot and humid despite the fans being on.
  - d) Due to it feeling hot and humid, the fans were being put on.

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

1. "You'd better not buy the car as you may regret it later," my sister warned me.  
(Begin: My sister warned .....)
  - a) My sister warned me not to buy the car for I may have to regret it later.
  - b) My sister warned me that I should not buy the car as I might regret it later.
  - c) My sister warned me against buying the car as I may regret it later.
  - d) My sister warned me that I would not buy the car for I may regret it later.
2. The students clapped as soon as the Chief Guest entered the auditorium.  
(Begin: No sooner.....)
  - a) No sooner has the Chief Guest entered when the students clapped.
  - b) No sooner did the Chief Guest entered then the students clapped.
  - c) No sooner did the Chief Guest enter than the students clapped.
  - d) No sooner had the students clapped than the Chief Guest entered.
3. This fact is so evident that it does not require proof.  
(Use: too)
  - a) This fact is to evident too require proofs.
  - b) This fact is too evident to require proof.
  - c) This fact too requires proof.
  - d) This factual evidence too requires proof.

[3]



4. The weather is humid today.  
(End with a question tag)
  - a) The weather is humid today, wasn't it?
  - b) The weather is humid today, would you say?
  - c) The weather is humid today, isn't it?
  - d) Is the weather humid today?
  
5. Our victory surprised everyone in the school.  
(Begin: Our victory took.....)
  - a) Our victory took everyone in the school by surprise.
  - b) Our victory took everyone in the school with surprise.
  - c) Our victory took everyone in the school for a surprise.
  - d) Our victory took with surprise everyone in the school.
  
6. I prefer going out with family to staying alone at home.  
(Begin with: I would rather.....)
  - a) I would rather go out with family than stay alone at home.
  - b) I would rather prefer going out with family than staying alone at home.
  - c) I would rather prefer to go out with family than stay alone at home.
  - d) I would rather go out with family to staying alone at home.
  
7. Very few Indian classical musicians are as talented as he is.  
(Begin with: He is.....)
  - a) He is one of the most talented Indian classical musicians.
  - b) He is the most talented Indian classical musicians.
  - c) He is more talented than all other Indian classical musicians.
  - d) He is more talented than a few other Indian classical musicians.
  
8. He would never come to see us if we did not invite him.  
(Use: 'unless')
  - a) Unless we invite him he will never come to see us.
  - b) Unless invited he would never come to see us.
  - c) He would never come to see us unless we invite him.
  - d) He would never come to see us unless we invited him.