



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2024
ENGLISH I - 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.

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.

Q 1) Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following:
(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question)

[20]

- Write an original short story in which a little girl, her mother and a kidnapper form the main characters.
- You were among the four tourists from North India who were trapped in one of the most fatal landslides that was triggered by heavy rainfall in Wayanad, Kerala. Narrate how the seemingly innocuous trip turned into a nightmare for you, where you experienced utter confusion, fear, stress and anxiety.
- 'Fear of punishment enforces discipline.' Express your views either for or against this statement.
- Describe a cold, foggy, wintry December morning that you spent at the railway station. Write in detail about the sights, sounds, smells and the feelings you experienced while waiting for your train.
- 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:

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

[10]

- You were held up in the countryside one night due to a terrible road accident. Write a letter to your friend narrating the incident.
- Recently, there has been a marked increase in the cases of motor vehicle thefts in your vicinity. Write a letter to the Station House Officer of the Police Station of your locality, complaining about the thefts and requesting him to take the necessary measures to curb these thefts. Suggest possible solutions to the problem.

Q 3)

- Your school is planning to organise a drive to ban the use of plastic. Write a notice informing the pupils from classes IX to XII about the same and requesting them to participate in it. **[5]**
- Write an e-mail to the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency requesting him/her to inaugurate the drive. **[5]**

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

[Pilot here means a person with special knowledge of difficult area of water like the entrance to a harbor and whose job is to guide ships through it.]

Martin Trevor had waited on the river from his boyhood and had risen to be a Senior Pilot, *entitled* to bring up to Calcutta the biggest ships. He was exceedingly surprised that his only son, Jim wanted to follow his profession. "You'll go to



school, son, and learn what they teach you, and you'll turn out to be something better than a pilot," said Trevor to Jim, who wanted his son to enter the Civil Service.

Jim became well known on the Port and the tug-boat captains had always a place for him at their tables, and the mates of the big steam dredgers used to show him how the machinery worked. He would row from one ship to the other and listen respectfully as the pilots *conferred* together about the steamers.

Unluckily, one cannot understand the surroundings of the Hugli without referring to money. As soon as Trevor understood how his son was spending his time, he cut down his pocket money. In his extremity, Jim took counsel with Pedro, the man at the Sailor's Home, who introduced him to a man called Erh-tze.

Erh-tze asked Jim to perform a task for which he was not qualified. Jim, was fully certain of the thrashing of his life from his father for piloting without license, let alone what the Port Authorities might do to him. So he asked one hundred and seventy-five rupees, and Erh-Tze beat him down to a hundred and twenty.

Early morning Jim with Erh-Tze and his ship were on the river. A big American oil ship was ahead of them in tow, and when Jim saw her he was thankful, for if he could steer by her they would be safe. It was being steered by his father.

And so they went down, Jim steered by his father, turn for turn. Jim was happy when the last of the difficult route had gone astern, and they were walking through Diamond Harbour.

Jim decided to be on the safe side and wait for another sailing-ship and follow her out. He made after a big, fat, iron four-masted sailing ship. It was in old McEwan's hands. Finally Jim reached his destination. Erh-tze paid him his hundred and twenty rupees.

McEwan said angrily, "And how is it you break the regulations o' the Port o' Calcutta? Are ye aware o' the penalties and imprisonment you have laid yourself open to?"

Jim said nothing. There was not very much to say just then.

McEwan said, as he set foot on deck before Jim could speak, "Yon is an enterprising cub of yours, Trevor. Ye'd better enter him in the regular business, or one of these fine days he'll be acting as pilot before he's qualified, and sinking ships in the fairway. If you've no other designs I'm thinking, I'll take him as my cub and do the needful, for there's no denying he's a good pilot before he is qualified."

- i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
1. Entitled
 - (a) capacitate
 - (b) permission
 - (c) authorised
 - (d) favoured
 2. Conferred
 - (a) brainstormed
 - (b) negotiate
 - (c) argued
 - (d) talked
- ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'unadventurous'? [1]
- (a) strict
 - (b) coward
 - (c) enterprising
 - (d) vivacious
- iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:
- (a) What was the ambition of Martin Trevor for his son? How did it differ from the ambition of his son? [2]
 - (b) How did Jim show interest in being a sailor? [2]
 - (c) What was the main obstacle for Jim in being a sailor? [1]
 - (d) How did Erh-Tze help Jim to sail a ship? What did the former pay the latter? [2]
 - (e) What was McEwan's contribution in making Jim a good pilot even before he was qualified? [2]
- iv) State the efforts made by Jim to become a pilot. Answer in not more than fifty words. [8]

Q 5)

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

Example:

- (0) NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who initially planned (plan) to spend just over a week at the International Space Station, may now remain in orbit until early next year.

Answer: planned



Their return to earth _____ (1)(delay) due to technical glitches in the Boeing Starliner spacecraft. So, what _____ (2) (be) the biggest challenge that NASA is facing and what are their plans to overcome it. NASA _____ (3) (start) exploring the option of _____ (4)(take) help from Elon Musk's SpaceX but, the key challenge is the incompatibility of spacesuits with SpaceX's Dragon craft. As per the official statement by NASA, "Astronauts can't use a Boeing suit in a Space X vehicle or a Space X suit in a Boeing vehicle." Meanwhile, as NASA explores solutions for return, Williams, _____ (5) (experience) eyesight issues aboard the ISS. This condition reportedly _____ (6) (link) with the prolonged exposure to microgravity and is known as Spaceflight Associated Neuroocular Syndrome (SANS). Scans of Williams' retina, cornea, and lens _____ (7) (conduct) to gauge her eye health. Steve Stich, Manager of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, _____ (8) (explain), "We have been working with SpaceX to ensure the return of Butch and Sunita." However, the final decision on the return strategy remains pending.

ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

[4]

- (a) My illness accounts _____ my absence from school.
- (b) Please do not get carried _____ by these rumours.
- (c) On the eve of the Chief Minister's visit, Civil Lines was cordoned _____.
- (d) Do not blow the problem _____ of proportion.
- (e) Tanishq hankers _____ riches.
- (f) We must abide _____ the laws of the country.
- (g) The players cut _____ the field to reach the hall.
- (h) Courage will carry him _____ difficulties.

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

[4]

1. I bought these custard apples yesterday. They are very sweet.
 - (a) These custard apples which I bought yesterday are very sweet.
 - (b) I bought these custard apples yesterday and they are very sweet.
 - (c) These custard apples that I bought are very sweet.
 - (d) These custard apples who I bought yesterday are very sweet.
2. A deer defends its young ones. It fights with courage.
 - (a) A deer willing to defend its young ones fights with courage.
 - (b) A deer fights with courage to defend its young ones.
 - (c) Only a deer can fight with courage to defend its young ones.
 - (d) A deer who defend its young ones fights with courage.
3. His younger son is in Canada. He is a professor at a prestigious university.
 - (a) His younger son is in Canada where he is a professor in a university.
 - (b) His younger son, who is in Canada, is a professor at a prestigious university.
 - (c) His younger son is a professor at Canadian university.
 - (d) His younger son, in Canada, is a professor at a very prestigious university.
4. Caesar was a great conqueror. He failed to unite the various conquered territories into a well-knit empire.
 - (a) In spite of being great conqueror, he failed to unite the various conquered territories into well- knit empire.
 - (b) Despite being a great conqueror, Caesar failed to unite the various conquered territories into a well- knit empire.
 - (c) Caesar failed to unite the various conquered territories into a well- knit empire but he was a great conqueror.
 - (d) Caesar failed as a conqueror though he conquered many territories and formed a well knit empire.

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

[8]

1. Emily pushed Ethan down the building as soon as he gave her the pen drive containing the details of the CIA agents. (Begin with: No sooner.....)
 - (a) No sooner had Ethan given the pen drive containing the details of the CIA agents then she pushed him down the building.
 - (b) No sooner did Ethan give Emily the pen drive containing the details of the CIA agents than she pushed him down the building.
 - (c) No sooner did Ethan give Emily the pen drive containing the details of the CIA agents when she pushed him.
 - (d) No sooner have Ethan given Emily the pen drive containing the details of the CIA agents then she pushed him down the building.

[3]



2. The Irish engineer constructed a sturdy bridge across the river.
(Begin with: Across the river.....)
 - (a) Across the river, a sturdy bridge was constructed by the Irish engineer.
 - (b) Across the river, a sturdy bridge has been constructed by the Irish engineer.
 - (c) Across the river a sturdy bridge were constructed by the Irish engineer.
 - (d) Across the river a sturdy bridge is constructed by the Irish engineer.

3. Teachers work very hard.(End with a question tag)
 - (a) Teachers work very hard, would you say?
 - (b) Teachers work very hard, doesn't they?
 - (c) Teachers work very hard, don't they?
 - (d) Teachers work very hard, do they.

4. We will arrive at 8 o'clock, if nothing goes wrong.(Use: 'unless')
 - (a) Unless everything went wrong, we will arrive at 8 o'clock.
 - (b) Unless something goes wrong, we will arrive at 8 o'clock.
 - (c) Unless nothing goes wrong, we will arrive at 8 o'clock.
 - (d) Unless everything goes right, we will arrive at 8 o'clock.

5. Her heart is so full that she cannot express her feelings.(Use: too)
 - (a) Her heart is too full to express her feelings.
 - (b) Her heart is too full and she cannot express her feelings.
 - (c) Her heart is full too express her feelings.
 - (d) Her heart is too full such that she cannot express her feelings.

6. He decided to eat simple home cooked food instead of enjoying junk food.
(Begin with: Rather than.....)
 - (a) Rather to eat home cooked food, he did not enjoy junk food.
 - (b) Rather than decide to eat home cooked food, he enjoyed junk food.
 - (c) Rather than eating home food, he decided to enjoy junk food.
 - (d) Rather than enjoying junk food, he decided to eat simple home cooked food.

7. They said that they were sure that Karan would win the match that day.(Begin with: They said, ".....")
 - (a) They said, "They are sure that Karan would win the match that day."
 - (b) They said, "We will be sure that Karan would win the match today."
 - (c) They said, "We were sure Karan might win the match that day."
 - (d) They said, "We are sure Karan will win the match today."

8. Very few doctors in the hospital are as dedicated as he is.(Begin with: He is.....)
 - (a) He is one of the most dedicated doctor in the hospital.
 - (b) He is one of the most dedicated doctors in the hospital.
 - (c) He is the most dedicated doctor in the hospital.
 - (d) He is one of the dedicated doctors in the hospital.