

ENGLISH

Paper 1

(Three hours)

*(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.
They must NOT start writing during this time.)*

Attempt all four questions.

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].
(You are advised to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1, 40 minutes on
Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and 1 hour on Question 4.)
(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)*

Question 1

Write a composition (in approximately 450-500 words) on any **one** of the following [30]
subjects:

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar).

- (a) *We are happier than our forefathers.* Express your views on the given statement.
- (b) The sounds of laughter and loud voices attract your attention to a room in your house. The door is closed. Describe what you hear, as well as what you see, as you gently open the door.
- (c) "Today, in our global society, if young people go abroad to study or to seek jobs, they cannot be termed unpatriotic." Write *for* or *against* this topic.
- (d) Diversity.
- (e) 'Nowadays, there are careers that cater to every interest and aptitude.' Discuss this in the light of your own interests.
- (f) Write an original story with the following beginning:
"I was not more than fourteen at that time...."

This Paper consists of 5 printed pages and 1 blank page.

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Question 2

A student, at the end of Class XII, requests the Principal of his school for a certificate or testimonial which he needs for his further studies. Imagine that you are the Principal and draft a certificate, keeping the following points in mind: [20]

Duration of acquaintance – student's academic record – student's conduct – involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities – leadership qualities – feedback obtained from teachers and any other relevant information.

Question 3

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

- (a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, while sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar as possible to sentence A. [10]
Write down sentence B in each case.

Example:

- (0) (A) We must endure what we cannot cure.
(B) What cannot be.....

Answer: (0) What cannot be cured must be endured.

- (1) (A) He knows everything about the business.
(B) There is.....
- (2) (A) A bridge would have been built if the funds had not run out.
(B) Had the.....
- (3) (A) As soon as winter comes, birds migrate to the south.
(B) No sooner.....
- (4) (A) Man is exploring the sea in order to increase his resources.
(B) The sea is.....
- (5) (A) They were the only ones who completed the task.
(B) Except for.....
- (6) (A) He's the richest man I've ever met.
(B) I've never.....
- (7) (A) I have never seen a film as bad as this.
(B) This is
- (8) (A) He said, "I will definitely visit you tomorrow."
(B) He said that.....
- (9) (A) We should have sympathy for the less fortunate.
(B) We should sympathise
- (10) (A) My praise pleased her.
(B) What gave.....

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.) [5]

- (1) The soccer player was shown a yellow card for arguing _____ the referee.
- (2) Mr. Donald will call _____ him tomorrow.
- (3) The exhibition was a complete sell _____.
- (4) How can she put _____ with such indisciplined students?
- (5) The man broke _____ the cordon and rushed to the dais.
- (6) We must cut _____ on wasteful expenditure.
- (7) Though I was young, my father had great confidence _____ me.
- (8) The novelty of being a celebrity wears _____ ultimately.
- (9) Anna wasn't looking where she was going and she walked _____ a lamp post.
- (10) She is the nicest person I have come _____.

(c) Fill in the blank in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage, but write the verbs in the correct order: [5]

After they _____ (1) (walk) for a while, they _____ (2) (see) an isolated cottage. They _____ (3) (peep) through the broken window, _____ (4) (look) for someone who _____ (5) (guide) them back to the main road. They _____ (6) (find) that the cottage _____ (7) (be) dirty, cobwebs _____ (8) (hang) across the roof and it _____ (9) (seem) to be unoccupied. They _____ (10) (be) disappointed.

Question 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

THE HIDDEN BOX

- (1) I opened the iron gate and walked as softly as I could up the weed-tufted gravel drive. My mind was strangely empty. I felt no glow of pleasure and was unexcited at the prospect of becoming rich. I was occupied only with the mechanical task of finding a black box.
- (2) The front door was closed and set far back in a very deep porch. The wind and rain had whipped a coating of gritty dust against the panels, showing that it had been shut for years. Standing on a derelict flower-bed, I tried to push open the first window on the left. It yielded to my strength stubbornly. I clambered through the opening and found myself crawling along the deepest window-ledge I had ever seen. After I had jumped noisily down upon the floor, I looked up.

- (3) The room was thick with dust, musty and empty of all furniture. Spiders had erected great stretchings of their webs about the fireplace. I made my way quickly to the room where the box was and paused on the threshold. It was a dark morning and the weather had stained the windows with blears of grey wash which kept the brightest part of the weak light from coming in. The far corner of the room was a blur of shadow. I had a sudden impulse to have done with my task and be out of this house forever. I walked across the bare boards, knelt down in the corner and passed my hands about the floor in search of the loose board. To my surprise, I found it easily. I lifted it up, laid it aside and struck a match. I saw a black metal cash-box nestling dimly in the hole. I put my hand down and crooked a finger into the loose reclining handle, but the match suddenly flickered and went out and the handle of the box, which I had lifted up about an inch, slid heavily off my finger. Without stopping to light another match, I thrust my hand into the opening and, just when it should be closing about the box, something happened. 15 20 25
- (4) I cannot hope to describe what it was but it had frightened me very much. It was some change which came upon me or upon the room, indescribably subtle, yet momentous. It was as if the daylight had changed with unnatural suddenness, as if the temperature had altered greatly in an instant or as if the air had become twice as rare or twice as dense as it had been in the twinkling of an eye. Perhaps all of these or other things, happened together, for all my senses were bewildered all at once and could give me no explanation. The fingers of my right hand, thrust in the opening in the floor, had closed mechanically, found nothing at all, and came up again empty. The box had gone! 30 35
- (5) I heard a cough behind me, soft and natural, yet more disturbing than any sound that could ever come upon the human ear. That I did not die of fright was due, I think, to two things: the fact that my senses were already disarranged and able to interpret to me only gradually what they had perceived, and also the fact that the utterance of the cough seemed to bring with it some more awful alteration in everything. I collapsed weakly into a limp sitting-down position upon the floor. Sweat broke out on my brow and my eyes remained open for a long time without a wink. 40 45
- (6) In the darkest corner of the room near the window, a man was sitting in a chair, eyeing me with a mild but unwavering interest.

- (a) (i) Given below are four words. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [4]
- (1) neglected
 - (2) urge
 - (3) significant
 - (4) explain
- (ii) For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least ten words using the same word **unchanged in form, but with a different meaning** from that which it carries in the passage: [4]
- (1) finding (*line 4*)
 - (2) handle (*line 23*)
 - (3) thrust (*line 25*)
 - (4) sound (*line 39*)
- (b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:
- (i) What was the narrator's state of mind when he came to the house in search of a black box? [2]
 - (ii) What details show that the house had been shut for years? [2]
 - (iii) Why did the narrator have a feeling of uneasiness and fear when he entered the room? [3]
 - (iv) What was the strange thing that happened about the box? What impact did it have on the narrator? [3]
- (c) Describe the narrator's purpose behind entering the abandoned house and the strange atmosphere he encountered there. You will be required to:
- (i) List your ideas clearly in point form. [6]
 - (ii) In about 100 words, write your points in the form of a connected passage. [6]