

# ENGLISH

## Paper 1

(Three hours)

*(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.*

*They must NOT start writing during this time.)*

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*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.)*

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### 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) Courage does not mean the absence of fear, but implies an attempt to conquer fear. Describe some of your worst fears and how you managed to overcome them.
- (b) Grandparents are a source of joy to us. Narrate the most memorable experience you have had with your grandparents.
- (c) 'Films should be made to escape from reality, not to remind us of how grim life is.' Argue for or against this statement.
- (d) How far do you agree that nice people are seldom successful and thoroughly successful people are seldom nice?
- (e) Eyes.
- (f) Write an original story beginning with the following words:  
    'The news came as a pleasant surprise.....'

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This Paper consists of 6 printed pages.

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## Question 2

Write an article for your School magazine on a competition that was recently held in your school. Write the article in about 300 words using the points given below: [20]

Name of the competition – nature of event – organisers – number of participants – chief guest – judges – quality of the competition – criteria for judgement – winners – overall experience.

## 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. Write sentence B in each case. [10]

Example:

- (0) (A) If you want to earn well, you must work hard.  
(B) To earn.....

Answer: (0) To earn well, you must work hard.

- (1) (A) Sachin is an outstanding sportsman and a good artist.  
(B) Besides.....
- (2) (A) Mother said to Paul, "A courier came for you yesterday."  
(B) Mother told Paul that.....
- (3) (A) As soon as the minister took the oath, the spectators started applauding.  
(B) No sooner .....
- (4) (A) He is so short that he cannot be a soldier.  
(B) He is too .....
- (5) (A) The lawyer examined the documents with utmost care.  
(B) The documents.....
- (6) (A) I will buy the horse if it is quite sound.  
(B) Unless.....
- (7) (A) Only Shakespeare could write such a tragedy.  
(B) No one.....



- (8) (A) Rita is a journalist and writer.  
(B) Not only .....
- (9) (A) Although Lakshmi worked very hard, she failed in the examination.  
(B) Notwithstanding Lakshmi's .....
- (10) (A) No one would deny that he was totally fit before his death.  
(B) Everyone .....

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

[5]

- (1) Do you want to take \_\_\_\_\_ every single object from the box?
- (2) The plane must take \_\_\_\_\_ before dark.
- (3) The children spoke \_\_\_\_\_ a whisper as they were scared.
- (4) We must not speak ill about a person \_\_\_\_\_ his back.
- (5) He disliked the play so much that he walked \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the first act.
- (6) Walking barefoot \_\_\_\_\_ the grass is very good for health.
- (7) This rule does not apply \_\_\_\_\_ you as you are less than eighteen years old.
- (8) You must apply \_\_\_\_\_ the job immediately.
- (9) They have been living in Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ ten years.
- (10) Mrs. Kapur has been living in Chennai \_\_\_\_\_ 2000.

(c) Fill in the blanks 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]

Two carpenters \_\_\_\_\_ (1)(work) on Mr. Sharma's roof. When they \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (stop) work at 6 p.m., they \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (leave) their ladder \_\_\_\_\_ (4)(lean) against the house. At 7 p.m., Raju, a thief, passed by the house and \_\_\_\_\_ (5)(see) the ladder. The house \_\_\_\_\_ (6)(be) now empty as Mr. and Mrs. Sharma \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (go) to the market. Raju \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (climb) up the ladder, \_\_\_\_\_ (9)(get) in through a first-floor window, and \_\_\_\_\_ (10)(go) straight to the main bed room where he stole all of Mrs. Sharma's jewellery.



#### Question 4

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

- (1) To be encumbered with a corpse is to be in a difficult position. True, any doctor, even one just out of medical school, would have been able to diagnose the cause of death. The man had died of heart failure or what the doctors call cardiac arrest. The cause of his heart having stopped pumping blood was that someone had slid a sharp sliver of steel between his ribs just far enough to penetrate the great muscle of the heart and to cause a serious and irreversible leakage of blood so that it stopped beating. Cardiac arrest, as I said. 5
- (2) I wasn't too anxious to find a doctor because the knife was mine and the hilt had been in my hand when he died. I stood on the open road with the body at my feet and I was scared, so scared that the nausea rose in my throat to choke me. This particular body had been a stranger – I had never seen him before in my life. 10
- (3) I was unarmed, if you except the 'sgian dubh' – the black knife – which I always carry. The 'sgian dubh' is a much underrated weapon. Mine is at least a hundred and fifty years old. The ebony handle is ribbed on one side to give a good grip, but smooth on the other side so it draws clear without catching; the blade is less than four inches long; the stone set in the handle balances the knife so that it makes a superlative throwing weapon. I carry it in a flat sheath in my left sock. 15 20
- (4) This is how it had happened.
- (5) A little after I had driven out of the city, I saw a car ahead, pulled off the road, and a man waving the universally recognized distress signal of the stranded motorist. It turned out, quite naturally, that there was something wrong with his car and he couldn't get it to move. I got out, walked over to his car and peered at the exposed engine. 25
- (6) He didn't use the gun straight away. He first tried to take a swipe at me with a well-designed little club. I turned my head and saw his upraised arm and dodged sideways. If the club had connected with my skull it would have jarred my brains loose; instead it hit my shoulder and my whole arm went numb. 30
- (7) I hopped back and groped for the 'sgian dubh' as I went. Fortunately it's a left-handed weapon which was just as well because my right arm wasn't going to be of any use.



- (8) He came for me again but when he saw the knife he hesitated. He dropped 35  
the club and dipped his hand beneath his jacket and it was my turn to  
hesitate. But his club had a leather wrist loop and the dangling weapon  
spoilt his draw and I jumped him just as the pistol came out.
- (9) I didn't stab him. He swung around and ran straight into the blade. He  
sagged against me with a look of surprise on his face. Then he went down at 40  
my feet and the knife came free.
- (10) So there I was on a lonely road with a newly created corpse at my feet and a  
knife in my hand, a bad taste in my mouth and a frozen brain.
- (11) From the time I had got out of my car to the moment of death had been less 45  
than two minutes.

Adapted from *Running Blind* by Desmond Bagley

- (a) (i) Given below are four words and phrases. Find the words which have [4]  
a similar meaning in the passage:  
(1) burdened  
(2) enter  
(3) not given much importance  
(4) most effective
- (ii) For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least [4]  
ten words using the same word **unchanged in form, but with a  
different meaning** from that which it carries in the passage:  
(1) arrest (*line 4*)  
(2) draws (*line 17*)  
(3) set (*line 18*)  
(4) club (*line 28*)
- (b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:
- (i) How did the stranger die? [3]  
(ii) Why was the narrator scared? [2]  
(iii) Describe the narrator's weapon. [3]  
(iv) Why did the narrator stop his car and get out? [2]



(c) Describe the incident of the killing of the stranger in not more than 100 words (Paragraphs 5 to 9). Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. 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]