

**ICSE Board**  
**Class X English Language**  
**Board Paper - 2012**

**Total time: 2 hrs**

**Total Marks: 80**

Answer 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 four questions.

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

You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answer Question 2

**Question 1**

**Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question.)**

**Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following:** [25]

- (a) Write an original short story that begins with the words: It wasn't going to be easy she knew... but somehow she had to confront him. She took a deep breath, and walked into the room.
- (b) "Money causes more harm than good." Express your view either for or against this statement.
- (c) People play a very important role in our lives. Describe in vivid detail, any one person and show how he/she has been a very special influence in your life.
- (d) Modes of Communication are continually changing. What are some of these changes? Say which one change you like best and why?
- (e) 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.



### Question 2

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

Select one of the following.

[10]

- (a) Many areas near your school have been affected by floods. You are president of your school social service club. Write a letter to the Mayor of your town/city telling him/her what you plan to do for the relief of the victims, suggest ways in which you can combine with other organisations to bring about better distribution of relief items.
- (b) You were taken by your school to visit a place of historical interest. Write a letter to your classmate who was unable to go on the trip telling him/her about the trip, why it was important and what you gained from the experience.

### Question 3

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

It was a dull autumn day and Jill Pole was crying behind the gym.

She was crying because they had been bullying her This is not going to be a school story, so

I shall say as little as possible about Jill's school, which is not a pleasant subject. It was Co-educational, a school for both boys and girls, what used to be called a

"mixed" school; some said it was not nearly so mixed as the minds of the people who ran it [5]

These people had the idea that boys and girls should be allowed to do what they liked. And unfortunately what ten or fifteen of the biggest boys and girl liked best was bullying the others. All sorts of things, horrid things, went on which at an ordinary school would have been found out and stopped in half a term, but at this school they weren't. [10]

Or even if they were, the people who did them were not expelled or punished. The Head said they were interesting psychological cases and sent for them and talked to them for hours. And if you knew the right sort of things to say to the Head, the main result was that you became rather a favourite than otherwise.

That was why Jill Pole was crying on that dull autumn day on the damp little [15]  
path which runs between the back of the gym and the shrubbery. And she hadn't nearly finished her cry when a boy came round the corner of the gym whistling, with his hands in his pockets. He nearly ran into her.

"Can't you look where you're going?" said Jill Pole.

"All right," said the boy, "you needn't start --" and then he noticed her face, "I say, Jill," he said, "what's up?" [20]

Jill only made faces; the sort you make when you're trying to say something but find is if you speak you'll start crying again.

It's Them, I suppose - as usual," said the boy grimly, digging his hands further into his pockets.[25]  
Jill nodded. There was no need for her to say anything, even if she could have said it. They both knew

"Now, look here." said the boy, "its no use..."

He meant well, but he did talk rather like someone beginning a lecture. Jill suddenly flew into a temper (which is quite a likely thing to happen if you have been interrupted in a cry) [30]

"Oh, go away and mind you own business," she said. "Nobody asked you to come barging in, did they? And you're a nice person to start telling us what we all ought to do, aren't you? I suppose

you mean we ought to spend all our time sucking up to Them, and currying favour, and dancing attendance on Them like you do." [35]

"Oh, Lord" said the boy, sitting down on the grassy bank at the edge of the shrubbery and very quickly getting up again because the grass was soaking wet. His name unfortunately was Eustace Scrubb, but he wasn't a bad sort.

"Jill!" he said. "Is that fair," [40]

"I d-don't know and I don't care," sobbed Jill.

Eustace saw that she wasn't quite herself yet and very sensibly offered her a peppermint. He had one too. Presently Jill began to see things in a clearer light.

"I'm sorry, Eustace," she said presently. [45]

(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

- (i) bullying (line 2)
- (ii) expelled (line 11)
- (iii) barging (line 33) [3]

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

- (i) Why was Jill crying? [2]
- (ii) Why do you think she was crying behind the gym? [2]
- (iii) Who is the 'Them' referred to in line 24? [2]
- (iv) Why did Jill fly into a temper? [2]
- (v) Which sentences tell us that both Jill and Eustace Scrubb had suffered Similar? [2]
- (vi) When did Jill begin to see things differently? [2]

(c)

- (i) What kind of school did the children go to? Write your answer in not more than 60 words. [8]
- (ii) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). Give a reason to justify your choice. [2]

#### Question 4

(a) 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.

**Example:**

(0) My guide (tell) me if I wanted to meet these people I would have to walk two miles

Answer: told.

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We finally (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) a village where I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) a lady whose age I (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (can) not immediately make out. My translator (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (find) it difficult to interpret the lady's words because her dialect was quite different. She (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (is) a dark-skinned and dark-haired lady. She must have been around seventy years old but there was no grey in her hair. She obviously not afford to dye her hair. So what was her secret? Nobody (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (know). It must have been a 'secret' common to all for not one person in that whole village (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (has) a trace of grey hair! I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about it for a long time. [4]

(b) **Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word:**

- (i) He was touched \_\_\_\_\_ pity when he heard the tale.
- (ii) There is always a demand \_\_\_\_\_ good tailors.
- (iii) The mother prevented her child \_\_\_\_\_ going out in the rain.
- (iv) The baby crawled \_\_\_\_\_ the table and hid there.
- (v) Once upon a time the great King ruled \_\_\_\_\_ all these villages and towns.
- (vi) She is the smarter \_\_\_\_\_ the two.
- (vii) Sheila insists \_\_\_\_\_ wearing that dress, although her mother thinks it is too short for her
- (viii) The teacher complained \_\_\_\_\_ him when she met his mother in the market. [4]

(c) **Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and*, *but* or *so*:**

- (i) He lived in the city for many years. He could not find his way about.
- (ii) She complained that her brother did not know anything. Her brother claimed he knew everything.
- (iii) The coffee isn't strong. It won't keep us awake.
- (iv) I finished my homework. I switched on the TV. [4]

(d) **Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence.**

- (i) My mother left a month ago. (Begin: It has .....)
- (iii) Anil was wrong to lose his temper. (Begin: Anil ought .....)
- (iv) As soon as the Chief Guest had seated himself the play began. (Begin: No sooner .....)
- (v) Rajiv said to Arjun, "Is this the book you were reading yesterday," (Begin: Rajiv asked Arjun if...)
- (vi) Only a foolish person would be taken in by this trick. (Begin: None .....)
- (vii) Everybody has heard of Gandhi. (Begin: Who .....?)
- (vii) He will issue the cheque only when he hears from the head office. (Begin: On .....)
- (ix) Father will send you a message if his flight is cancelled. (Begin: Should...)

[8]