

ICSE Board
Class X English Language
Board Paper – 2014

Total time: 2hrs

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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 the paper is the time allotted for writing the answers.

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 35 minutes in answering Question 1
and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.*

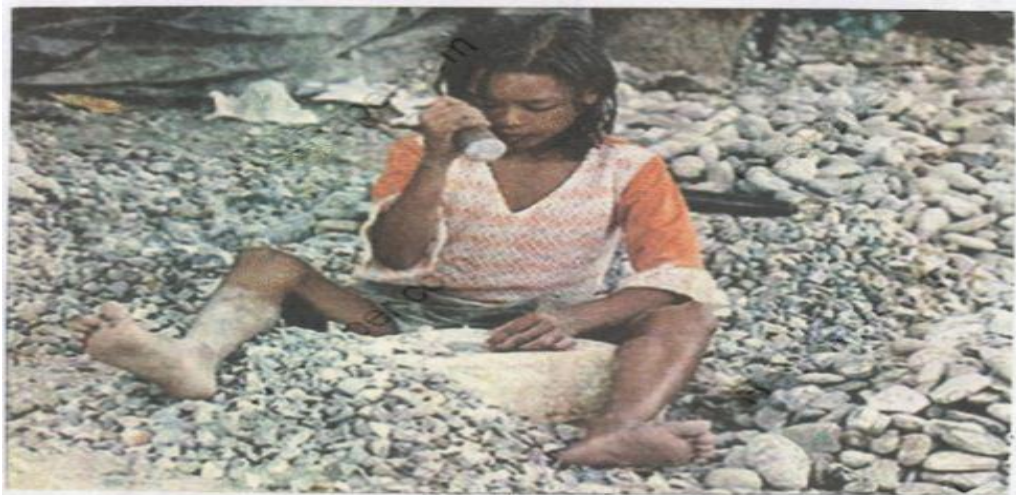
Question 1

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

[25]

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

- (a) Write an original short story that begins with the words: "Its not my fault", he shouted....."
- (b) 'Working women make better mothers than women who stay at home'. Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (c) Describe an early morning walk through your city or town in winter. Give details of the smells, sights, sounds and feelings you experienced.
- (d) Think of a time when you found yourself in an embarrassing situation. Narrate how you got into that situation, how you dealt with it and the lesson you learnt from it.
- (e) Study the picture given below. Write a short story or description or an account what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, your composition must have a clear connection with the picture.



Question 2

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

Select one of the following:

[10]

- (a) Your uncle has promised to give you a gift of Rs 1000/-. Write a letter thanking him for the offer; tell him how you plan to spend the money; and why you wish to spend it in this way.
- (b) You are the President of the Nature Club in your school which is hosting the Earth Day Celebrations. Write a letter to the Principal of a neighbouring school inviting the school to participate in the event. State when, why and how you plan to celebrate Earth Day.

Question 3

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

Richard Parker was so named because of a clerical error.

A panther was terrorizing the Khulna district of Bangladesh, just outside the Sundarbans. It had recently carried off a little girl. She was the seventh person killed in two months by the animal. And it was growing bolder. The previous victim was a man who had been attacked in broad daylight in his field. The beast dragged him off into the forest, and his corpse was later found hanging from a tree. The villagers kept a watch nearby that night, hoping to surprise the panther and kill it, but it never appeared.

[5]

The Forest Department hired a professional hunter. He set up a small, hidden platform in a tree near a river where two of the attacks had taken place. A goat was tied to a stake on the river's bank. The hunter waited several nights. He assumed the panther would be an old, wasted male with worn teeth, incapable of catching anything more difficult than a human. But it was a sleek tiger that stepped into the open one night: a female with a single cub. The goat bleated. Oddly, the cub, who looked to be about three months old, paid little attention to the goat. It raced to the water's edge, where it drank eagerly. Its mother followed it. Of hunger and thirst, thirst is the greater urge. Only once the tiger had quenched her thirst did she turn to the goat to satisfy her hunger.

[10]

[15]

The hunter had two rifles with him: one with real bullets, the other with immobilizing darts. This animal was not the man-eater, but so close to human habitation she might pose a threat to the villagers, especially as she was with cub. He picked up the gun with the darts. He fired as the tiger was about to attack the goat. The tiger reared up and snarled and raced away. But immobilizing darts don't bring on sleep gently- they knock the creature out without warning. A burst of activity on the animal's part makes it act all the faster. The hunter called his assistants on the radio. They found the tiger about two hundred yards from the river. She was still conscious. Her back legs had given way and her balance on her front legs was shaky. When the men got close, she tried to get away but could not manage it. She turned on them, lifting a paw that was meant to kill. It only made her lose her balance. She collapsed and the Pondicherry Zoo had two new tigers. The cub was found in a bush close by, meowing with fear.

[20]

[25]

[30]

The hunter, whose name was Richard Parker, picked it up with his bare hands and, remembering how it had rushed to drink in the river, named it Thirsty. But the shipping clerk at the Howrah train station was evidently a man both confused and diligent. All the papers received with the cub clearly stated that its name was Richard Parker, that the hunter's first name was Thirsty and that his family name was None Given. Richard Parker's name stuck.

[35]

I don't know if the hunter was ever called Thirsty None Given!

(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) corpse (line 5)
- (ii) quenched (line.17)
- (iii) reared (line 22) [3]

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

- (i) Why does the author say that the panther 'was getting bolder'? [2]
- (ii) Why did the Forest Department hire a professional hunter? [2]
- (iii) What did the hunter expect to encounter? What did he actually encounter? [2]
- (iv) What did the tiger do before turning to attack the goat? Why did it do that? [2]
- (v) Why does the hunter decide to shoot the tiger though he knew it was not the man-eater?[2]
- (vi) What name did the hunter give to the cub? Why? [2]

(c)

- (i) In not more than 60 words narrate how the hunter and his assistants captured the tiger and her cub. [8]
- (ii) Give a suitable 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:

From his perch behind the clock, Hugo could (0) _____ (see) everything.

Answer: see.

He rubbed his fingers nervously against the small notebook in his pocket and (1) _____ (tell) himself to be patient. The old man in the toy booth (2) _____ (argue) with the girl. She (3) _____ (be) about Hugo's age and he often saw her go into the booth and (4) _____ (disappear) behind the counter. The old man (5) _____ (look) agitated today. Had he figured out some of his toys were (6) _____ (miss)? Well, there was nothing to be (7) _____ (do) about that now. The old man and the girl argued some more and finally she closed her book and (8) _____ (run) off.

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

- (i) The teacher spoke _____ for Raju when he was wrongly accused of stealing money.
 - (ii) We can visit her in the hostel _____ 3pm and 5pm on Saturdays.
 - (iii) The Sinhas have lived in New Delhi _____ 1943.
 - (iv) Little children are often afraid _____ the dark.
 - (v) Sneha has applied _____ a scholarship.
 - (vi) It took Ahmed many months to get _____ the loss of his friend.
 - (vii) She turned _____ the generous offer made by the manager.
- We were asked to take _____ our footwear as we were entering a place of worship.

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

- (i) He is good at gymnastics. His handwriting must improve.
- (ii) Her grandfather gifted her a paint box. He knew she was good at art.
- (iii) Ravi fractured his arm. He insisted on playing the match.
- (vii) Mona has been ill for a month. She stood first in the examination.

[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) As soon as we lit the candle, the power supply was restored
(Begin: No sooner)

(ii) The bee is more industrious than all other creatures.
(Use 'most industrious')

(iii) The old woman was too slow to catch the bus.
(Begin: The old woman was so)

(iv) "I'll do it tomorrow," he promised.
(Rewrite in indirect speech)

(v) Though Reema got an expensive gift she was not happy.
(Begin: Inspite)

(vi) I prefer reading a book to watching a movie.
(Begin: I would rather)

(vii) I have never seen Mr. Roy lose his temper.
(Begin: Never)

(viii) She found your keys in the garage.
(Begin: The keys)