



# Rao IIT Academy

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JEE | MEDICAL-UG | BOARDS | KVPY | NTSE | OLYMPIADS

## X - ICSE BOARD

Date : 26-02-2018

## ENGLISH - QP + SOLUTIONS

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

#### ENGLISH Paper — I

(Two hours)

*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 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 I

(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 entitled 'The Gift'.

**Ans.** Once there lived a couple in Canada named Jim and Della, Della was very pretty. Jim was very fond of her beauty. For Jim only things were very precious: Della's hair and his ancestral watch.

It was Christmas time and Della wanted to purchase one of the best and unique gift for her husband. After managing all the household expenses for that month Della was left with only 1\$ and 87 cents. This amount was nothing to purchase a gift for Jim. She tried to arrange for the money but could'nt get it. Next day Della got ready wearing a black skirt and white shirt with a cap. Her hairs were looking beautiful. She left for the market & while entering the market she saw a Hair Salon with many exclusive offers. She went inside and asked the Hair Stylist that how much he would pay her for cutting her hair till shoulder length as abroad the Hair Salon purchases the hair of customers for wigs and medical uses. The hair stylist checked Della's hair, the quality, texture, colour, length etc.... He then told her that he can pay her 20\$. Della was quite happy and agreed for the haircut as she was eager to purchase a unique gift for Jim. The hair cut was done and Della left searching a perfect gift for her husband.

As she entered the market further she saw a gold chain designed with white gold for Jim's watch. She purchased that watch chain and went home. It was evening time and as usual Jim came home. As soon as he entered he saw Della and was upset after looking at her haircut but he didn't reacted to it. Della and Jim had casual conversation like everyday. Della also tried convincing Jim that haircut gave her a different look and her hair will grow again so not to be upset.

Then Della remembered about the gift that she had bought for Jim. Even Jim said that he has bought a gift for Della. Both were eager to see each other's gift. But when Jim saw the gift he was quite disappointed. Della saw that he was not happy. Jim gave Della her gift and said he sold that ancestral watch to purchase that gift for her. After listening to this, even Della was disappointed as she knew well that Jim had lost both his valuable and precious things that was her hairs and his ancestral watch.

- (b) *"Money is important for happiness."* Express your views either **for** or against this statement.

**Ans.** Most individuals are of the view that a good amount of wealth results into happiness, while some believe that being very rich has its own curse. In my

opinion, I completely agree that a lot of money always brings with itself many unforeseen problems as well.

Money and its vicious power to attract humans to fulfill their various wishes, at any cost, has always been debated. Earning sufficient money for one's basic needs and amenities, as well as to fulfill their family obligations and provide them with suitable comforts of a modern life are very much justifiable. However, the issue arises when more wealth leads to a feeling of greed and a sense of invincibility amongst family and peers. As a result, a sense of suspicion, envy and jealousy creeps in within social relationships and takes a heavy toll on family matters as well. For instance, the recent war of words in public between Ambani brothers due to differences of opinion, for sharing and taking control of the vast business empire left over by their father. Such instances, due to fear of personal financial loss lead to permanent damage of relationships and split between families.

Secondly, gaining more and more financial clout and enjoying the material luxuries the world has to offer, comes with its own set of sacrifices. Many high-earning corporate CEO's and senior level management at most of these companies struggle with their daily hectic work schedules and get overburdened by the responsibilities, with the only aim of maximising the bottom line at all cost. This results in a serious issue of not being able to devote enough time to their family and friends, as well as a deterioration in their physical and mental well-being, and later at times leading to life-threatening diseases. A recent survey by Times showed that more than 40 percent of top executives in India are suffering from high-blood pressure and stress related issues.

In conclusion, I believe that having too much money not only leads to issues in personal and family relationships, but also deprives one of a healthy and peaceful way of life that can be enjoyed with sufficient money.

- (c) Narrate an incident from your own experience when you helped to prepare a meal. Explain what you did and what you gained from the experience.

**Ans.** When I was young, the kitchen had an invisible 'stop' sign put there by my mom. "No you cannot enter here!" she always said to me. Well, I really don't blame her as it is no place for kids.

I was just left outside in awe, looking at what wonders the kitchen held. A few years passed by and I became very interested in food, both eating and preparing it. Nonetheless, the kitchen was still out of bounds so I couldn't experiment with cooking. But they couldn't stop me forever now, could they?

It was early morning, mom had gone for grocery shopping and my sister was fast asleep, and no one else was at home. Time to strike! I sneaked through the dining room and there was the kitchen in front of me!

I stepped inside and took in the sight in front of me - cabinets rising high like skyscrapers, the oven occupying a majestic place beside one wall, the dishes sparkling like diamonds. I had seen it from outside but this time it was up close. As I hadn't had breakfast I decided to begin my first experience as a chef by making an omelette. Sure I had seen mom do it, so how could it be hard?

I set to work quietly so as not to wake my sister up. I took an egg, and some tomatoes and onions. I knew the basics, so I began the work. I chopped the onions on the work surface just I had seen chefs do it. Then came the tomatoes. I washed them first and started chopping. This time disaster struck and I cut my finger. Ouch! There was no bleeding but it was just as painful.

This little nib didn't stop me and after about a few minutes of whining, I got back on my feet. The egg awaited its fate, to be cracked in half. It took two or three attempts to crack it open and into the bowl. The spices were next.

Well, as most of you know, mothers always keep spices on the top shelf of the cabinet. Whatever the logic may be, it is very annoying trying to jump to reach them. After a failed attempt, I went to the hall and grabbed a stool. After climbing up the stool, I grabbed the chilli powder and the salt.

I put the ingredients in the bowl with the egg, and whisked it. I lighted the stove and put the big frying pan on it and poured some oil in it... and spilled some on the floor too, accidentally, of course!

Till the pouring of the batter into the pan, everything was going perfect — then I wondered what was used for turning the egg upside down in the pan. Soon, I was running all over the kitchen, searching all the cabinets to find the cooking spoon, all the while the omelette was sizzling in the pan. Finally I found the spoon and made a rush to turn over the omelette. I managed to do that without breaking or spilling it out of the pan only to see a very nicely browned, or rather burnt, side up!

While I was busy taking it out in a plate, someone came up behind me. It was mom. I was dumbstruck. She was angry at seeing the kitchen in a mess, the drawers all open, and some salt and chilli powder on the stoves and countertop.

She found a fit punishment for me — I was to eat the burnt omelette. Sitting on the table and eating the omelette, I realised it wasn't as bad as it looked. My first cooking experience turned out to be a disaster and I just got the taste of my own medicine... I mean, omelette. But I was happy with my accomplishment, even if it was a bit burnt. And I had learnt to leave things to the expert chef (my mom), and never tried cooking anything myself!

- (d) You had been waiting outside the examination hall. Describe what you saw and the sounds you heard when you arrived at the place. What were your feelings? Describe how the scene changed once you entered the hall and the examination started.

**Ans.** Examinations sap the examinees of energy and make them sleepless at nights. But then, it has not so far been possible to devise a better way of judging their ability. So, they are a necessary evil.

It is strange that an examinee's ability has to be judged in just three hours. Again, there is no better way out. All who study know that they will have to appear in the examination one day. They have had to work hard for months together. As the crucial day comes, they reach the examination hall, prepared for it, some more some less.

A few minutes before the start of the examination, I saw a strange scene outside the examination hall. An eerie silence prevails there. The examinees are carrying their books and notes in their hands which they have already mugged up and are trying to make this mugging firmer and firmer in their minds. Most of the examinees are busy in their own work and are not inclined to talk. But a few, sitting or standing in groups of two or three may be seen discussing some points.

Even the dullest students appear to be great scholars outside the examination hall.

They are poring over their books most attentively. Some of them may be thinking of devising means of copying or behaving if they are caught copying.

The brilliant students are also busy revising their notes or lessons. But comparatively, they are not so much agitated. They wear cool and balanced looks.

Most of the students reach the examination hall well before time. They look at the notice-board to find out their room and even try to locate their seats. They try to bring to the notice of the superintendent if they find any discrepancy. But a few careless students reach the hall late and enter it in a state of great excitement. Rarely, there may be one or more students who get delayed because of some genuine difficulty. The supervisors generally try to accommodate them. As soon as the bell rings, all the students enter the hall.

Even I entered the hall at last. Unlike other students, I went inside with all the materials required for exam & did my prayers. The supervisor gave the answer sheets & question paper and everybody started writing the paper.

- (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.



**Ans.** In the above picture, we can see boys playing cricket in their locality. It seems a match between two groups from same area which is also called as “Gully Cricket”.

Unlike every game, cricket has its own plus point and its quite an interesting game. The boys seems to be well trained and interested in the picture. The batsman and the 2 fielders both are playing the game springly and with healthy spirit.

The image shows that batsman has played a shot and the 2 fielders are trying to save their points by stopping the ball or catch the ball. Like the game is



played were every run counts a point, the batsman wants to make run and defends his wicket and that's the reason he is striking the bat upwards in the direction of ball. Overall, it seems to be an interesting match also enjoyed and accompanied by the other boys.

**Question 2**

[10]

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

- (a) Your uncle has offered to get you a pet for your birthday. Write a letter to him telling him what you would like, give reasons for your choice and tell him how you would take care of your pet.

**Ans.**

Plot No.-206,

D.N. Nagar ,

Andheri (W),

Mumbai.

08<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

Dear Uncle,

Hello and how are you? I am sure you would be as good as always. Even I am doing well here.

As you know uncle, Next week is my birthday. I know your gifts are always precious & wonderful. As you were telling me last time, when we met that you planning to buy a puppy as my birthday gift. I am eagerly waiting for that gift Uncle. It would be wonderful to get a puppy as a gift on my birthday & I am quite excited for it. Since longtime, I was interested to buy a puppy and you got me here. As you know dogs are one of the faithful pets & also useful for safeguarding I think puppy is the best option keeping as a pet. I know keeping pets is not easy as they we have to take good care of them like babies. But I can assure you that I will take good care of this puppy & keep you updated about his activities and my training which I would be providing to that pet. I

have a thought to name the pet as “Tyson”. I hope you like my choice & I am sure his arrival would cherish all of us.

Give my regards to Aunt & Sunny.

With Love,

ABC.

- (b) The traffic outside your school is very heavy and chaotic. Write a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) pointing out the danger of such heavy and chaotic traffic in a school zone. Suggest possible solutions for the problem.

**Ans.**

DAV School,  
Plot No.-08,  
Majesty Road,  
Bandra (W),  
Mumbai – 400008

January 08, 2018

The Deputy commissioner,  
Mumbai Police (Traffic),  
18, Pali Street,  
Mumbai – 400009.

**Subject :** Heavy & chaotic traffic in school zone.

Dear Sir,

This letter intends to bring to your kind attention the unimaginable harassment that school students face on Majesty Road due to growing instances of



traffic jams. We know that the number of vehicles & commuters on the roads is on the rise & that there is no proportional increase in the number of roads. So, traffic jams are bound to happen.

It stretches one's tolerance when drivers show irresponsible behaviour as we have all school going kids along with their parents. As this is school area it is suppose to be a Silence Zone but there is no silence infact its chaos & havoc for all of us. We can see vehicles parked at any corner of the road, drivers getting into ugly arguments, rash driving, etc.....

If we arrange proper officials on duty & create awareness among people about traffic rules & regulations this can help us to. Also, appropriate sign boards in the area suggesting people what to do & when can improve the situation & help resolving traffic problems in the school zone. Because if necessary actions are not taken it can lead to many accidents & serious problems.

We have faith in the Police Department & fully understand our officers. With all due respect to all the officers, I believe that the Police Department will pull up its socks to combat this problem of traffic jams in our school zone.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

ABC

### Question 3

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

Granny knew I'd been in the train for two nights, and she had a huge breakfast ready for me.

Later she told me there'd been a letter from Uncle Ken.

'He says he's the manager in Fitpo's hotel in Simla,' she said. 'The salary is very good. It's a steady job and I hope he keeps it.'

Three days later Uncle Ken was on the veranda steps with his bedding roll and *battered* suitcase.

'Have you given up the hotel job?' asked Granny. •

'No,' said Uncle Ken. 'They have closed down.'

'I hope it wasn't because of you.'

[10]

'No, Aunt Ellen\_ The bigger hotels in the hill stations are closing down.'

'Well, never mind. Come along and have your lunch.'

Over lunch, Uncle Ken talked very seriously about ways and means of earning a living.

'There is only one taxi in the whole of Debra,' he *mused*. 'Surely there is business for another?'

'I'm sure there is,' said Granny. 'But where does it get you? In the first place, you don't have a taxi. And in the second place, you can't drive.'

'I can soon learn. There's a driving school in town. And I can use Uncle's old car.'

[20]

'I don't think it will run now,' said Granny.

'Of course, it will. It just needs some oiling and greasing and a spot of paint.' 'All right, learn to drive.'

So, Uncle Ken joined the driving school.

After a month Uncle Ken announced that he could drive and that he was taking the car out for a trial run.

'You haven't got your license yet,' said Granny.

'Oh, I won't take it far,' said Uncle Ken. 'Just down the road and back again.' He spent all morning cleaning up the car. Granny gave him money for a can of petrol.

[30]

After tea, Uncle Ken said, 'Come along, Ruskin, hop in and I will give you a ride. Bring Mohan along too.' Mohan and I needed no urging. We got into the car beside Uncle Ken.

'Now don't go too fast, Ken,' said Granny anxiously. 'You are not used to the car as yet.'

Uncle Ken nodded and smiled and gave two sharp toots on the horn. He was feeling pleased with himself.

Driving through the gate, he nearly ran over a cat.

Miss Kellner, coming out for her evening rickshaw ride, saw Uncle Ken at the wheel of the car and ran indoors again.

[40]

Uncle Ken drove straight and fast, tootling the horn without a break. At the end of the road there was a roundabout.

'We'll turn here,' said Uncle Ken, 'and then drive back again.'

He turned the steering wheel, we began going round the roundabout, but the steering wheel wouldn't turn all the way, not as much as Uncle Ken would have liked it to... So, instead he went on - and straight through the Maharaja of Jetpur's garden wall.

It was a single-brick wall, and the car knocked it down and *emerged* on the

other, side without any damage *to* the car or any of its occupants. Uncle Ken brought it to a halt in the middle of the Maharaja's lawn. [50]

Running across the grass came the Maharaja himself. When he saw that it was Uncle Ken at the wheel, the Maharaja beamed with pleasure.

'Delighted to see you, old chap!' he exclaimed. 'Jolly decent of you to drop in again. How about a game of tennis?'

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: [3]

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

- (i) battered (line 7)
- (ii) bused (line 15)
- (iii) emerged (line 48)

**Ans.** (i) battered - damaged by repeated use  
 (ii) bused - say to oneself in a thoughtful manner.  
 (iii) emerged - more out of or away from something & become visible.

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

(i) Why did Granny hope Uncle Ken would keep his job at Fitgo's hotel? [2]

**Ans.** Granny had a hope that Uncle Ken would keep his job at Firpo's hotel as it was a steady job with a good salary.

(ii) When Uncle Ken arrived with his luggage, Granny remarked that she hoped the hotel had not closed down because of him. What does this remark tell you about Uncle Ken? [2]

**Ans.** The remark of granny tells us a lot about Uncle Ken that he may not be stable at work or did he create any kind of issue due to which the hotel was closed down as she know him very well. It clearly shows us that may be granny wanted to point Uncle Ken that he is trying to be serious about ways & means of earning a living.

(iii) Why did Uncle Ken think that driving a taxi in Dehra would be profitable? [2]

**Ans.** Uncle Ken thought that driving a taxi in Dehra because there was only one taxi in the whole of Dehra so there was business for another.

- (iv) Which sentence tells you that the narrator and his friend were waiting to be invited for a drive in a car? [2]

**Ans.** The sentence which tells us that the narrator & his friend were waiting to be invited for a drive in a car is : After tea, uncle ken said, ‘come along, Ruskin hop in & I will give you a ride. Bring Mohan along too.’ Mohan & I needed no urging. We got into the car beside uncle ken.

- (v) Why did Miss Kellner run indoors when she saw Uncle Ken at the wheel of the car? [2]

**Ans.** Miss Kellner saw Uncle Ken driving through the gate & he nearly ran over a cat. Therefore, she ran indoors when she saw Uncle at the wheel of the car.

- (vi) What was Uncle Ken's intention at the roundabout? [2]

**Ans.** Uncle Ken’s intention was to take a turn & drive back again at roundabout.

- (c) (I) In not more than 60 words, describe what happened after the car went through the wall. [8]

**Ans.** The car went through the wall and Uncle Ken brought it to a halt in the middle of Maharaja’s lawn. Looking at this, the Maharaja himself came to see. When he saw it was Uncle Ken & he was beamed with pleasure. He exclaimed to Uncle Ken that he was delighted to see his old chap & if he would like to play a game of tennis with him.

- (ii) Give a title to your summary in 3(c)(i). Give a reason to justify choice of the title. [2]

**Ans.** The suitable title for the given extract is “Everything is possible”. When we look at the attitude & behaviour Uncle Ken he is a person who never loses hope or give up. Even though he lost his job, he had the willingness to do something & that’s how he learned driving & thought of another business.

No matter how many obstacles come into his ways he kept going.

#### 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. [4]

**Example:**

(0) *beginning*

Alice was (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to get very tired of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (sit)

by her sister on the bank and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (peep) into the book her sister was reading, but it

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the

use of a book," (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"

Alice wondered whether the pleasure of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (make) a daisy-chain

would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when

suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (run) close by her. Alice did not think this was very remarkable, until the Rabbit actually

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket, and

(8) (look) at it, and then hurried on.

**Ans.** (0) beginning

(1) sitting

(2) peeped

(3) had

(4) thought

(5) making

(6) ran

(7) took

(8) looked

(b) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word:

[4]

(I) The poet's mother was stung \_\_\_\_\_ a scorpion.

**Ans.** The poet's mother was stung **by** a scorpion.

(ii) "Please write \_\_\_\_\_ what I tell you otherwise you will forget,"  
the teacher said

**Ans.** "Please write **as to** what I tell you otherwise you will forget,"  
the teacher said

(iii) The dog was hiding \_\_\_\_\_ the bed, barking at the stranger.

**Ans.** The dog was hiding **under** the bed, barking at the stranger.

(iv) Sheila's grandmother found it difficult to climb \_\_\_\_\_ the steep staircase

**Ans.** Sheila's grandmother found it difficult to climb **up** the steep staircase

(v) The soldier fought bravely \_\_\_\_\_ his country.

**Ans.** The soldier fought bravely **for** his country.

(vi) There is no use crying \_\_\_\_\_ spilt milk.

**Ans.** There is no use crying **for** spilt milk.

(vii) I don't know what they were arguing \_\_\_\_\_ but I could hear angry voices.

**Ans.** I don't know what they were arguing **about** but I could hear angry voices.

(viii) The school playground is out \_\_\_\_\_ bounds for the pupils of the primary school

**Ans.** The school playground is out **with** bounds for the pupils of the primary school

(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence [4]  
**without using and, but or so:**

(i) They have to go to bed early every night. They are allowed to stay up late on Saturdays.

**Ans.** They have to go to bed early every night as they are allowed to stay up late on Saturdays.

(ii) The children were delighted. The exams had been cancelled.

**Ans.** The children were delighted that the exams had been cancelled.

(iii) We are not allowed to play in the sun. We are not allowed to play in the rain.

**Ans.** We are not allowed to play in the sun or rain.

(iv) This is the place. The dog was rescued from its cruel owner.

**Ans.** This is the place from where the dog was rescued from its cruel owner.

(d) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions [8]

given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence.

- (i) She laid the table after she had finished the cooking.  
(Begin: When .....)

**Ans.** When she finished the cooking she laid on the table.

- (ii) He is old but still he works hard.  
(Begin: Despite.....)

**Ans.** Despite of being old, he still works hard.

- (iii) The delivery boy was requested to bring the parcel the next day.  
(Rewrite using direct speech)

**Ans.** I asked the delivery boy, "Could you bring the parcel tomorrow / the next day?"

- (iv) I prefer playing a game to watching television.  
(Begin: I would rather .....)

**Ans.** I would rather prefer to play a game than to watch a television.

- (v) Every family has a black sheep.  
(Begin: There is no .....)

**Ans.** There is no family without a black sheep.

- (vi) I have never worn a more ill-fitting suit.  
(End: .....ever worn.)

**Ans.** The most ill-fitted suit that I have ever worn.

- (vii) Anil is too fast a runner not to come first in the race.  
(Begin: Anil is so.....)

**Ans.** Anil is so fast runner that he could not come first in the race.

- (viii) As soon as the sports meet ended, the children ran on the field.  
(Begin: Hardly .....)

**Ans.** Hardly the children were left when the sports meet ended.