

ENGLISH PAPER 1

(LANGUAGE)

(Maximum Marks: 100)

(Time allowed: 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) You have recently moved to a new neighbourhood in your city. Describe the new neighbourhood, comparing it to the one you have just left.
- (b) Relate something unpleasant that happened to you during your childhood that nevertheless helped you to grow up and mature.
- (c) ‘The end justifies the means.’ Argue *for* or *against* the statement.
- (d) ‘Appearances can be deceptive’. Give your views on this topic.
- (e) Dreams.
- (f) Write a short story that ends with the words “..... I really doubt if things could have turned out any better.”

Question 2

You are the editor of your school magazine. You have recently attended a cultural programme in your city. Write an account of this programme (in approximately 300 words) using the points given below: [20]

Date and venue – occasion – Chief Guest – other invitees – inauguration – events – other important features – highlights – reaction of audience – conclusion

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) The heavy showers of rain revived the plants.

(B) The plants.....

Answer: (0) The plants were revived by the heavy showers of rain.

(1) (A) Ashita is the most beautiful girl in the class.

(B) No.....

(2) (A) As soon as she reached home, she learnt that she had to leave for London.

(B) Hardly.....

(3) (A) Ramesh said, "Rajiv, please bring your physics book to school tomorrow."

(B) Ramesh.....

(4) (A) Some of the cakes had been eaten by the boys before the party began.

(B) The boys

(5) (A) If you are not ready to come with me, I will not go.

(B) Unless.....

(6) (A) It is such a wonderful opportunity that we must not miss it.

(B) It is too.....

(7) (A) We did not know that Mr. Francis was retiring and leaving for Ooty.

(B) Little.....

- (8) (A) He knew the culprit, but refused to admit it.
 (B) Although.....
- (9) (A) I am afraid you cannot get admission to the college without clearing the admission test.
 (B) I am afraid you cannot be
- (10) (A) If Rita had finished her work earlier, she would have gone to the market.
 (B) Had.....

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

- (1) After his parents died in a car accident, his uncle looked _____ him.
 (2) The chairman says that he will look _____ their complaints.
 (3) The soldiers laid _____ their lives defending their country.
 (4) I was laid _____ for three weeks with a broken leg.
 (5) This book runs _____ a hundred and fifty pages.
 (6) The programme ran _____ six hours.
 (7) The ailing company was taken _____ by the government.
 (8) He takes _____ his grandfather.
 (9) I have an appointment _____ the dentist.
 (10) The best candidate should be appointed _____ the post.

(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]

One day a millionaire went to a hotel in New York and _____ (1)(ask) for the cheapest room they _____ (2)(have).

“What _____ (3)(be) the price of the room?” he _____ (4)(ask). The manager _____ (5)(tell) him.

“Is that that the cheapest room you _____ (6)(have)? I _____ (7)(stay) by myself and only _____ (8)(need) a small room.”

The manager said, “Why do you choose a poor room like that? Your son always _____ (9)(stay) in our most expensive room.”

“Yes,” said the millionaire, “but his father _____ (10)(be) a wealthy man; mine is not.”

Question 4

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

- (1) I could hear the squeaking that heralded the evening arrival of the **bats**. I listened to the noises of the approaching night. Every day my hearing grew sharper. I was learning to filter out whatever I did not need to listen to, and giving no **sign** that I could hear everything that went on in the house.
- (2) I could not sleep. The air was heavy and still, the moon hidden behind thick **banks** of cloud. Lord Otori was sound asleep. I did not want to leave the house I'd come to love so much, but I seemed to be bringing nothing but trouble to it. Perhaps it would be better for everyone if I just vanished in the night. 5
- (3) Now I heard the hiss of hot water as the bath was prepared, the clatter of dishes from the kitchen, the sliding sigh of the cook's knife, a dog barking two streets away, and the sounds of feet on the wooden bridges on the canals. I knew the sounds of the house, day and night, in sunshine and under the rain. This evening I realized I was always listening for something more. I was waiting too. For what? 10
- (4) I began to wonder if I could get out of the house without setting the dogs barking and arousing the guards. I started consciously listening for the dogs. Usually I heard them bark on and off throughout the night, but I'd learned to distinguish their barks and to ignore them. I set my ears for them but heard nothing. Then I started listening for the guards: the sound of a foot on stone or a whispered conversation. Nothing. Sounds that should have been there were missing from the night's familiar web. 15
- (5) Now I was wide-awake, straining my ears to hear. There came the slightest of sounds, hardly more than a tremor, between the window and the ground.
- (6) For a moment I thought it was the earth shaking, as it so often did. Another tiny tremble followed, then another. Someone was climbing up the side of the house. 25
- (7) My first instinct was to yell out, but cunning took over. I rose from the mattress and crept silently to Lord Otori's side. I knelt beside him and whispered in his ear, "Lord Otori, someone is outside." 30
- (8) He woke instantly, and then reached for the sword and knife that lay beside him. I gestured to the window. The faint tremor came again.
- (9) Lord Otori passed the knife to me and stepped to the wall. I moved to the other side of the window. We waited for the assassin to climb in.

- (10) Step by step he came up the wall, stealthy and unhurried, as if he had all the time in the world. We waited for him with the same patience. 35
- (11) He paused on the sill to take out the knife he planned to use on us, and then stepped inside. Lord Otori took him in a stranglehold. The intruder wriggled backwards. I leaped at him, and the three of us fell into the garden like a flurry of fighting cats. 40
- (12) The man fell first, across the stream, striking his head on a boulder. Lord Otori landed on his feet. My fall was broken by one of the shrubs. The intruder groaned, tried to rise, but slipped **back** into the water.
- (13) "Get a light," Lord Otori said.
- (14) I ran to the house, took a light that still burned in one of the candle stands and carried it back to the garden. 45
- (15) The assassin had died without regaining consciousness. It turned out he had a poison pellet in his mouth and had crushed it as he fell. He was dressed in black, with no marking on his clothes. I held the light over him. There was nothing to tell us who he was. 50

Adapted from: *Tales of the Otori* by Lian Hearn

- (a) (i) Given below are four words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [4]
- (1) Coming near
 - (2) Disappeared suddenly
 - (3) Awakening from sleep
 - (4) Moved slowly and gradually
- (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) Bats (*line 1*)
 - (2) Sign (*line 4*)
 - (3) Banks (*line 6*)
 - (4) Back (*line 43*)
- (b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:
- (i) What could the narrator hear as he was lying down? [3]
 - (ii) Why couldn't the narrator sleep? [2]

- (iii) When did he realise that there was something wrong? [2]
- (iv) How did the narrator and Lord Otori overpower the intruder? [3]
- (c) Describe the incident of the assassination attempt that took place during the night, in not more than 100 words (Paragraphs 4 to 15). 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]