

ICSE Board
Class X English Language
Board Paper – 2017

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.)

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 was raining hard that night. In my hurry to get into the house, I didn't notice the black car parked across the road. I realized something was wrong when....."
- (b) "School days are the happiest days of our lives." Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (c) Narrate an incident from your own experience when you helped a friend who was in trouble. Explain what happened. What did you do to make the situation better?
- (d) There has been heavy rain in your city/town. You went to school but found that it was closed because of the rain. Describe the sights and sounds near the school and narrate how you finally reached home and spent the rest of the day.
- (e) Study the picture give 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 any one of the following:

[10]

- (a) A number of loose electric wires are hanging from a lamp post near the main gate of your school. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner explaining the problem, the danger it poses and suggest a quick solution.
- (b) You were a part of an organizing committee for an inter-school event which was very successful. You and the other committee members were congratulated and praised at the school assembly by the Principal. Write a letter to your grandmother telling her about the event and your feelings at being recognized and praised in front of the school.

Question 3

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

Every Monday, on his way back from work, Bipin Chowdhury would drop in at New Market to buy books. He had to buy at least five at a time to last him through the week. He lived alone, was not a good mixer, had few friends, and didn't like spending time in idle chat. Those who called in the evening got through their business quickly and left. Those who didn't show signs of leaving would be told around eight o'clock by Bipin Babu that he was under doctor's orders to have dinner at eight-thirty. After dinner he would rest for half an hour and then turn in with a book. This was a routine which had persisted unbroken for years.

Today, Bipin Babu had the feeling that someone was observing him from close quarters. He turned round and found himself looking at a round-faced, meek-looking man who now broke into a smile.

[10]

'I don't suppose you recognize me.'

Bipin Babu felt ill at ease. It didn't seem that he had ever encountered this man before. The face seemed quite unfamiliar.

'Have we met before?' asked Bipin Babu.

The man looked greatly surprised. 'We met every day for a whole week. I arranged for a car to take you to the Hudroo falls. My name is Parimal Ghose.'

'Ranchi?'

Now Bipin Babu realized this man was making a mistake. Bipin Babu had never been to Ranchi. He smiled and said, 'Do you know who I am?' [20]

The man raised his eyebrows, and said, 'Who doesn't know Bipin Chowdhury?'

Bipin Babu turned towards the bookshelves and said, 'You're making a mistake. I've never been to Ranchi.'

The man now laughed aloud.

What are you saying. Mr. Chowdhury? You had a fall in Hudroo and cut your right knee. I brought you iodine. I had fixed up a car for you to go to Netarhat the next day, but you couldn't because of the pain in the knee. Can't you recall anything? Someone else you know was also in Ranchi at that time. Mr. Dinesh Mukherjee. You stayed in a bungalow. You said you didn't like hotel food. I'll tell you more: you always carried a bag with your books in it on your sightseeing trips. Am I right or not?' [30]

Bipin Babu spoke quietly, his eyes still on the books.

'Which month in Nineteen fifty- eight are you talking about?'

The man said, 'October.'

'No, sir,' said Bipin Babu. I spent October Nineteen fifty- eight with a friend in Kanpur. You're making a mistake. Good day.'

But the man didn't go, nor did he stop talking.

'Very strange. One evening I had tea with you on the veranda of your bungalow. You spoke about your family. You said you had no children, and that you had lost your wife a decade ago.[40]

When Bipin Babu had paid for the books and was leaving the shop, the man was still looking at him in utter disbelief.

Bipin Babu's car was safely parked in Bertram Street. He told the driver as he got into the car, 'Just drive by the Ganga, will you, Sitaram.' Driving up the itrand Road, Bipin Babu regretted having paid so much attention to the intruder. He had never been to Ranchi. He had an

excellent memory.

Unless he was losing his mind!

- (a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: [3]
One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.
- (i) persisted (line 9)
 - (ii) decade (line 42)
 - (iii) intruder (line 48)
- (b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (i) How did Bipin Chowdhury find time to read five books a week? [2]
 - (ii) How did he get rid of visitors who stayed late? [2]
 - (iii) Which sentence tells you that Bipin Babu was uncomfortable? [2]
 - (iv) What strong argument did Bipin Babu give to prove that he was not in Ranchi at that time? [2]
 - (v) What does Bipin Babu regret? [2]
 - (vi) What are Bipin Babu's feelings at the end of the passage? [2]
- (c) (i) What memories of the trip does Parimal Ghose evoke to prove that Bipin Babu was indeed in Ranchi? Answer in not more than 60 words. [8]
- (ii) Give a title to your summary in 3(c)(i). Give a reason to justify your choice of the title. [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. [4]

Example:

Answer: (0) started

My mother (0) _____ (start) school when she (1) _____ (he) six

And (2) _____ (stop) the same term. She was unusual in the village as _____

she had a father and brother who (3) _____ (encourage) her to go to school. She was

the only in a class of boys and claims she was brighter than the boys. But every day she (4)

_____ (will) leave behind her girl cousins (5) _____ (play) at home and she (6)

_____ (envy) them. There (7) _____ (seem) to be no point in (8) _____ (go)

to school just to end up doing housework.

- (a) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word: [4]
- (i) She shouted angrily _____ the disobedient boy.
 - (ii) I asked them to provide us _____ a guide.
 - (iii) The tree grew at a dangerous slant and had to be cut _____.
 - (iv) My daughter believes _____ fairies.

- (v) He drew a beautiful diagram _____ the board.
- (vi) She battled her way _____ the crowd.
- (vii) We were asked to gather _____ the teacher.
- (viii) They had to climb _____ the steep pathway to reach the top.

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

- (i) This is the hospital .I was born here.
- (ii) The children have been sick for a week. They were unable to go to school.
- (iii) Mrs. Kumar has been a teacher for thirty years. She will now retire.
- (iv) We have had no respect for nature. Now we are suffering from the effects of global warming.

(c) Re-write the following sentence according to the instruction given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [8]

- (i) Not many people read for pleasure these days.
(Being: Few)

- (ii) Since her childhood Meera has been good in Mathematics.
(End: childhood.)

- (iii) “We have had no rain since January”, Ramu said.
(Being: Ramu said that they)

- (iv) It is dangerous as well as illegal to drive a motorcycle without a helmet.
(Being: It is not)

- (v) He had plenty of wealth but he was not happy.
(Being: In spite.....)

- (vi) He was so tired that he could not stand.
(Use: too)

- (vii) Every one of them was an experienced mountaineer.
(Being: There was no)

- (viii) I have never seen a film as bad as this
(Being: This is)