12th STD. - ISC BOARD

DATE : 07.03.2018

ENGLISH PAPER – 1

QP + SOLUTIONS

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 H. (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
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.)

[30]
(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.

**Ans.**

We all live in a society and are all bound to a neighbourhood. Neighbourhood is very important and it does definitely have an impact on what we are and how and where we live in. Unless we are happy in living in a good neighbourhood, we could not get to live peacefully.

A good neighbour makes our life sweet where bad neighbour makes a hell of it. One cannot have neighbours of one’s choice. I have recently shifted to new house in a new locality which seems to be far better than the previous one where we once lived. The new house is great with many facilities and we have got wonderful neighbourhood. It is very pleasant. Here, we have a good park nearby, making it the main attraction. The grocery store is nearby which makes it easy for all residents to make an immediate purchase, we have a bus stop close by, so that people do not have to travel long for means of transportation.

In my earlier locality, we were not lucky to have a great neighbourhood. Early in the morning they used to quarrel. The two ladies in the house used abuse each other loudly. Many passersby collect on the roadside to enjoy the fun. There children were also very naughty. They spoil our garden and pick flowers. They also used to quarrel with my younger brothers and sisters. They are dirty and they misbehave with strangers. They fight among themselves even in the presence of their mother. One of the lady was a terror to all the ladies of the street. She threw garbage near our gate. She had the habit of backbiting. She used to borrow sugar, wheat flour and other sundries from all the neighbours but never returns what she borrows.

But now here its quiet peaceful and our neighbourhood also has many added bonuses. We all live in harmony. In case of any kind of emergency to any resident, we all would help each other at the time of need. I have many friends in my neighbourhood and we all enjoy playing in the evenings. We have celebrations for every occasions and festivals and this makes it lot more fun and enjoyment for all of us in the neighbourhood. I like my neighbourhood and would like to make changes in the negative aspects concerning us in the neighbourhood. There are many things I love in my neighbourhood. In conclusion, I can say that the place where I live is a calm and peaceful to live with happy neighbours.
(b) Relate something unpleasant that happened to you during your childhood that nevertheless helped you to grow up and mature.

**Ans.**

Childhood can be such a fun-filled experience that we often forget how wonderful it was at times. True, there are still those bad times that haunt our memories, but chances are those aren’t the ones you really want to pay attention to, right? Let’s talk about some life changing experiences that you actually care about. I surveyed quite a few folks about their own personal life changing events to get a better understanding of what people really cared for in life. I got a whole heck of a lot more useful information than I planned! In fact, I thought it was so useful, that I should share with you all and learn from life.

When I received my first guitar. I found just how creative I can be and how passionate over something I can be. The first night, I stayed up all night playing it and figuring it out. This was my first time exploring my own mind and inner self.

My dad was an alcoholic during my childhood. My first memorable experience as a child was my dad throwing all of our dishes on the ground and breaking them. We left the house in our pajamas. My mom didn’t even have shoes on her feet. We went to a family friend’s house while the friend went to go calm down my dad. Because of everything that happened with my alcoholic father, it left me feeling alone and unable to trust a lot of men in my life.

I remember that I found a beggar who asked for money. He told me to always be nice to someone no matter what that person might be. I vowed to never be rude to someone I don’t know.

My most memorable experience as a child was joining Student Government at age 10. This allowed me to learn many social skills and how to deal with other people. I also was able to learn many skills such as time management, organization, and public speaking. I stayed there until I was 18. Going to a Baptist High School. It really helped shape my faith, which is still important to me today.

My most memorable life experience was the first time I went to Disney World with my mother. She saved up so much money and took off time from work that she probably shouldn’t have done because we were in Florida for a softball tournament already. Thinking that this would be the only time we would ever make it this far to get to Disney World we took a detour and she and I had the best vacation ever. I remember every minute was happiness and brought me so much joy. Moving from America to Germany. It was such a
life changing experience, because I had to completely learn a new culture. I learned so many things that most people never get to, and at such an early age. It was eye opening.

I remember that I wanted to go on a class trip and then my parents told me I couldn’t go overseas because I was an illegal immigrant without a passport. It really shook my view as myself and made me feel so set apart from other kids my age. Watching my longest and only true best friend die. My family and other friends didn’t understand what I was going through because it is something they didn’t have to deal with. Seeing someone so close to you and young pass. It effected every aspect of my life causing depression and serious existential issues as to why. Given my age at the time that is something nobody should ever have to deal with or think about mentally. It changed me forever end matured me almost instantly.

When I was five, we moved from Illinois to Louisiana. It was the first time I had ever been on a plane. Also, this move would shape the rest of my life. I slammed my pinkie finger in a door and cut the tip of it off. It changed me from a wild child to a careful and cautious kid.

My most memorable and impactful life changing experience as a child was when I went to Washington DC as a kindergartner with my parents. It opened up my eyes to the greater world around me and gave me a lifelong love of culture, history and travel. I am now a writer and I put my continuing search for knowledge completely on this trip. I truly respect my mom for all the efforts and struggles she had suffered to make my future bright & beautiful.

(c) The end justifies the means.' Argue for or against the statement.

Ans. I personally feel that the end does not justify the means. We are only justified when the means that we use to reach our goals are just as good as the end result. Some examples of this are murdering your father in order to acclaim the throne, the faults behind the 9/11 attack, and cheating on a test in order to get a good mark.

Let’s learn this with the help of few examples mentioned below. As you probably already know, Osama Bin Laden was the mastermind behind the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers in New York City. It must have been great for the Muslims that followed Bin Laden to have watched an American landmark go up into flames just like they had planned, so the end was good for them. Let’s think about the means that they used to get to that end. Suicidal pilots. Hundreds of people dying. In my opinion, those are not the best ways to
reach a goal. Sure, they did what they wanted to do, but the way they got there was not good at all.

Any students caught cheating on any test/exam will receive a mark of 0 and the administration will be notified. Have you ever heard that statement before, or remembered something like it from your childhood days when you were at school? And, worst of all – have you ever given into that temptation, the temptation to cheat on a test in order to get a good mark and make your parents ‘happy’? (That is, until they find out that you cheated, which they most likely will). Let’s think about what you did in detail. Your end was getting a good mark on the test. Okay. Sounds excellent! But what were your means? How did you reach that end? You cheated. Notice the opening statement to this paragraph. You got a good mark on the test, but does that really matter? No, not when you cheated, because you didn’t really understand the material – even though you got a good mark. That’s why even though the end was great, the means weren’t. And, in this case, that’s what matters.

In conclusion, I think that how you get to the end matters more than the end itself. Notice that in my very first example I’ve determined that if your brother murdered your father to claim the throne you’d be thinking that it wasn’t just. That’s because, even though he did something great and the whole court should be proud of him, he got to that high position in a bad way, so instead of everyone adoring him, they despise him. Not a good way to go.

(d) ‘Appearances can be deceptive’. Give your views on this topic.

Ans. This proverb unearths a hidden truth, ironically to the old one we were used to, that had earlier said, “Face is the index of the mind.” Previously people were taken by the look of a person. If one dressed neatly and appeared to be very nice and decent, especially – if that person is very handsome – people were influenced by his look and instantly fell for him like a hypnotized. It was only when that good looking person had cheated the believer he/she learned a bitter lesson.

Nevertheless, this proverb, ‘Appearances can be deceptive’ cannot be taken as one hundred percent true. It has a mixture of both good and bad. Good people, of course, look good. At the same time, bad ones also wear the guise of good person, knowing that their appealing appearances would have a sway over the onlookers.

Hence, under this tricky situation one has to be cautious as to how far that person is trustworthy. By casual conversation, how that person reacts to different situations, what
he/she laughs at that can betray his/her mental maturity, his kindness, his anger, his way of cracking jokes, how he behaves in public places, how he respects the fellow citizens as well as the aged, how he/she spends money and so on. These are some of the yardsticks for assessing a person.

Some of the decent looking people behave in an odd way, while some other, though ugly looking, behave very well. Therefore, it is not possible to judge a person by his/her external look. Variant of this proverb says, “Not to judge a book by its cover.”

George Bernard Shaw and Shakespeare were not handsome. But their writings have portrayed their high intellectual. Great writer Helen Keller was not a beautiful lady. She was deprived of sight, hearing impaired, unable to speak when she was just a two year old child. But fighting all odds, she had become a celebrity author!

Contrary to this, Walt Disney was not only handsome, but had an international reputation by his steadfast work, devotion and dedication. So, one must not come to a conclusion by mere external look of a person or a thing, be it a book or any commodity for that matter. A spurious product can be more attractive than the genuine one. Some substandard quality products, mostly from China, look good. After some time, they are tending to develop problems beyond salvage.

One can hear a politician talk for a longtime, making all false promises. If the voters believed him and elected him, his true color would be exposed. Remember it is also said that, “All that glitter is not gold.” A very well polished brass would pass upon more people than rough genuine gold. Similarly, gold coated jewels. Do not judge a person by his look. It is said that, “All men have eyes, but only few have the gift of penetration.”

(e) Dreams

Ans. Dreams are very different from waking life, but it is extremely difficult clearly to define in what the difference consists. When we are dreaming, we are nearly always convinced that we are awake, and in some cases real experiences have been mistaken for dreams. Sometimes even after waking, we may be doubtful whether our dream was a reality or not, especially if we happen to fall asleep in our chair and do not remember the circumstance of having fallen to sleep. Of course this doubt can only arise when there has been nothing in our dream that seems impossible to our wakened mind.
It is, however, only in rare cases that a dream exactly copies the experience of our waking hours. As a rule, in our sleep all kinds of events seem to happen which in our waking hours we should know to be impossible. In our dreams we see and converse with friends who are at the other side of the world or have been long dead.

We may even meet historical or fictitious characters that we have read about in books. We often lose our identity and dreams that we are someone else, and in the course of a single dream may be in turn several different persons. Space and time to the dreamer lose their reality.

It is possible in a dream that lasts a few seconds to appear to have gone through the experience of many years. The limitations of space may also vanish into nothing, so that we seem to travel the most distant parts of the universe with the rapidity of thought.

Our imagination gains in some cases such complete control over our reason that we can contemplate all such contradictions to our ordinary experience without the least feeling of wonder. But this is not always the case. It is impossible to assert as a universal rule that in a dream nothing, however extraordinary, can surprise us. Sometimes dreamers do have feeling of wonder at their strange experiences. Nor can we say that the moral reason loses all control in our sleep.

It does indeed sometimes happen that good men in their dreams seem to do without the slightest compunction horribly wicked deeds, but, on the other hand, even the dreamer sometimes hears the voice of conscience. All the fact that we have been considering are so various that they chiefly illustrate the extreme difficulty of making any general statement about dreams. They show that in many cases dream-life is very different from real life, and that in other cases mind of a sleeping man works much in the same way as if he were awake.

Perhaps the only definite general statement that can be made on the subject is that imagination even in sleep cannot originate anything, although it has an almost unlimited power of uniting together in more or less unusual or even in impossible combinations what we have actually experienced.

(f) Write a short story that ends with the words “……………… I really doubt if things could have turned out any better.”

Ans. They say give your best work away for free. This is the best work I’ve ever created in my whole entire life. This is my whole life…
This is for everyone who looks at the world from a different perspective. For everyone who still believes in his or her dreams. In a life worth living. This is for everyone who’s restless. For everyone who strives for change. For everyone who doesn’t accept the way things work today. Who don’t accept the status quo. This is for the ones who challenge the norm. The ones who break down existing barriers. The ones who make the impossible possible. This is for the ones most people would call crazy. This is for people just like you and me…

On June 29th I published a blog post with the title “I’m everywhere and nowhere. And I own nothing and everything”. I had so much more to say. But for some reason I just didn’t. Maybe I was afraid. Maybe I was too scared. I don’t know. And for some reason on July 31st I had to think about it again. And for another or the same reason I decided to extend this one blog into an entire book.

A book I would write in just 30 days. So I did it. On August 1st I wrote and published the first part. And for the next 30 days I wrote and published one part of that book on my blog and here on Medium. And on day 31 I put everything together into an ebook and sent it out to everyone who pre-ordered it.

And today, a little over a month later I’ve decided to put it on Medium in its entirety. I know it’s long, but I feel that this is the best way to read it in its entirety here on Medium. What if I would have done this little earlier......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:

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

Ans.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME IN DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Anvi Kapoor
GRADE XII

The cultural festival of Delhi Public School recently proved to be an unforgettable occasion for all the enthusiastic students. The Chief Guest of the show was Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Devendra Fadanvis and other invitees along with him.
All the students and parents joined the programme and maximum of the students were participants in the show.

Principal Rekha Agrawal set the ball rolling by lighting the traditional lamp, followed by presentation of reports on House activities in the year by the co-ordinator and House Wardens. The House-wise event saw students showcasing their competitive spirit at Shanti Sarovar’s Global Peace Auditorium in Gachi Bowli.

Those representing Narmada House came up with a fine performance of ‘The Happy Prince’, Oscar Wilde’s famous short story. Adapted as a musical, it was an amalgamation of mellifluous music, dazzling dances and thought-provoking skits. In all, 574 members between classes V and X, represented Narmada House in the challenging yet fulfilling task.

Among the first of events were ‘ECHO’, a segment that emphasises that one receives what one gives. The show then moved on to a discovery of true happiness through the story of the ‘Happy Prince and the Little Swallow’. The musical spread the message of compassion and that God loves those who love their fellow human beings. Parts of the play were performed in Hindi and Telugu owing to the presence of a diverse audience.

Parents and guests had a glint of pride in their eyes as they watched the mesmerising performances of the young students. The programme ended with a presentation about how the entire programme was put together, followed by the re-launch of ‘www.dps.com’, the school’s website.

Audience were much happy with the show and we got an overwhelming response from all of them. Overall, it was a great fest and I am glad that I was a part of it.

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.

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 ...................................

Ans. No other girl in the class is as beautiful as Ashita.

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

(B) Hardly..............................

Ans. Hardly she reached home & realised that she has to leave for London.

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

(B) Ramesh.............................
Ans. Ramesh asked Rajiv to get his physics book to school tomorrow.

(4) (A) Some of the cakes had been eaten by the boys before the party began.
(B) The boys…………………………
Ans. The boys ate some of the cakes before the party began.

(5) (A) If you are not ready to come with me, I will not go.
(B) Unless…………………………
Ans. Unless you are not ready to come with me, I won’t go.

(6) (A) It is such a wonderful opportunity that we must not miss it.
(B) It is too…………………………
Ans. It is too great opportunity that we should not miss it.

(7) (A) We did not know that Mr. Francis was retiring and leaving for Ooty.
(B) Little…………………………
Ans. Little late we got to know that Mr. Francis was retiring & leaving for Ooty.

(8) (A) He knew the culprit, but refused to admit it.
(B) Although…………………………
Ans. Although he knew that he was the culprit, but he refused to admit it.

(9) (A) I am afraid you cannot get admission to the college without clearing the admission test.
(B) I am afraid you cannot be………………
Ans. I am afraid you cannot be getting admission to the college without clearing the admission test.

(10) (A) If Rita had finished her work earlier, she would have gone to the market.
(B) Had…………………………
Ans. Had Rita finished her work to go to the market.

(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 soldier 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.
The programme ran _______ six hours.
The ailing company was taken _______ by the government.
He takes _______ his grandfather
I have appointment _______ the dentist.
The best candidate should be appointed _______ the post.

**Ans.**

(1) after
(2) into
(3) in
(4) there
(5) with
(6) for
(7) over
(8) for
(9) with
(10) for

(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.

One day a millionaire went to a hotel in New York and _______ (l)(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."

**Ans.**

(1) asked
(2) had
(3) will
(4) asked
(5) told
(6) have
(7) stay
(8) need
(9) stay
(10) be
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.

(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?

(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.

(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
he house

(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 tell. He was dressed in black, with no
marking on his clothes. I held the light over him. There was nodking to tell us who he
was. [50]
Adapted from: Tales of the ()toil by Lian Hearn

(a) (i) Given below are four words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage:
   (1) Coming near
   (2) Disappeared suddenly
   (3) Awakening from sleep
   (4) Moved slowly and gradually

   Ans.
   (1) Coming near - arrival
   (2) Disappeared suddenly - vanished
   (3) Awakening from sleep - woke
   (4) Moved slowly and gradually - crept

(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:
   (1) Bats (line 1)
   (2) Sign (line 4)
   (3) Banks (line 6)
   (4) Back (line 43)

   Ans.
   (1) Bats : I am afraid of bats.
   (2) Sign : I will sign for him.
   (3) Banks : I work for a bank.
   (4) Back : Then he handed the wallet back to his wife.

(b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:

(i) What could the narrator hear as he was lying down?
   Ans. The narrator could hear the squeaking of evening arrival. He listened the noises of approaching night and would also listen what he should not listen.

(ii) Why couldn’t the narrator sleep?
   Ans. The narrator could not sleep because he could listen the noises approaching the night. He would see that the air was heavy & still & the moon was hiding behind
clouds. He found that Lord Otori was fast asleep and he was trying not to listen any sound but still could have everything that went on in the house.

(iii) When did he realise that there was something wrong?  

**Ans.** The narrator heard the noise in the night everyday so he was aware of the sounds. But today, there was something different. He could hear the hiss of hot water, clatter of dishes from the kitchen, sliding two streets away and the sounds of feet on the wooden bridges on the canals. He also heard the guards and the sound of a foot on stone or a whispered conversation and that’s when he realised that there was something wrong.

(iv) How did the narrator and Lord Otori overpower the intruder?  

**Ans.** The narrator & Lord Otori knew that there was someone outside so to be prepared & for their safety they kept a sword & knife with them. Step by step they were trying to follow the person outside with patience. The moment he entered inside Lord Otori took him in a strangehold & the intruder wriggled backwards wherein the narrator leaped at him and all three of them fall into the garden.

(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.  

(ii) In about 100 words, write your points in the form of a connected passage.  

**Ans.** The writer heard the sounds approaching night everyday so he was aware of it. But that day, the sounds were different & he came to know that there’s something wrong. He went to wake up Lord Otori. Later, Lord Otori took a sword & knife with him for their safety & both where observing the intruder from the window. Step by step the intruder entered inside & Lord Otori strangeholded him whereas the narrator leaped at him. Three of them fall into the garden. But the moon felt first, across the stream, striking his head on a boulder & later they came to know that the assassin had died without regaining consciousness.