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ICSE EXAMINATION PAPER 2020

1. (a) The Secret

It was a splendid excursion plan and I said ‘yes’ to my friends without a second thought. My friends Rohit, Raghav, Aman and Jassi though preparing hard for the ICSE exam, had also planned a trip to the hills just for relaxation and enjoyment.

My ‘yes’ prompted them to do necessary bookings for a week-long trip. Aman acted very fast without giving me a chance to think otherwise and made all necessary arrangements for the third week of May. Soon all of us were lost in the studies again as we were keen to pass the boards with flying colours.

All of us are known for fun and enjoyment in the school as we always believe in living life king size with zeal and entertainment. Life is a tale of action and progress without a shade of passivity and pessimist. After the exams, we started our preparations for the trip looking for a new world of hope and enthusiasm. Soon, the departing day reached and all of us bid adieu to our families and boarded the train for Rishikesh for our onward journey to Nag Tibba—a beautiful snow-capped mountain peak of Himalaya region with shivering minus degrees temperature even in summers.

It was a tough and nerve-breaking trekking of more than fifty kilometres of hilly region when we reached close to Nag Tibba. It was a beautiful sunshine morning of 24th May and I was excited to reach the top in this wonderful weather. I persuaded my friends to cover the last five miles of the stretch but they won’t budge an inch. They flatly refused with a broad smile and declared to postpone the celebration for the next day.

Next day, we got up early and covered the last stretch easily in an hour to reach the top of Nag Tibba. As we touched the top, all my friends shouted in a chorus “Happy Birthday Sahil.” Oh my God! I had forgotten 25th May! How could I? All of a sudden I remembered my parents’ faces while leaving home. Really it was a great way to celebrate my birthday—a great secret with my great friends and no doubt the greatest birthday celebration.

- (b) “Pets remind us that we have an obligation and responsibility to preserve and nurture and care for all life.”

James Cromwell rightly describes the humane effect of pets in our life. Of course, a family without pets is an incomplete family as they are the best companions of our life. We usually recollect an animal whenever we wish to compare our life like the swiftness of a cat or the faithfulness of a dog. Our life revolves around the pets only as they make it vibrant, happy, energetic, sensitive and successful.

Pets are a source of love and affection in our life in abundance and are the only inexhaustible source of zeal that makes life worth living. The value of a pet can be understood by a family who has loved it and lived with it like my friend, Gungun. She brought home a puppy when he was hardly a week old and looked after it day and night. The puppy grew up and all family members called him Jack. Jack was a highly alert and devoted member of the family and made them free from all safety concerns.

Soon Jack became the most important member of the family as he used to participate in all activities such as playing, jumping, eating, dancing and even sitting silently during study time. If Gungun's brother refused to eat due to bad mood, he also refused and engaged him in fun activities to bring him out of pool of desolation. Everybody began and ended the day with Jack like an indispensable member of the family. His care and concern for all made him the best friend of the family. James Herriot has rightly said: "If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, animals are better off than a lot of humans."

(c) **Beauty of Evening**

The chirping birds are flying back home in large groups in the backdrop of golden sun setting in the West—so beautifully after a full day journey. Yes, I love evening time most as it symbolizes achievement, completeness and culmination after a hectic day. The sky is really beautiful and, at times, throws at us a splendid sight of 'rainbow'—the seven colours of our life with the cool fragrance of various flowers as if walking in a garden. Evening offers us a lovely sense of relaxation and contentment after doing our duty. The cool breeze soothes our senses and drowns us in a pool of joy and freedom. For me, evening imbibes a sense of achievement and fulfilment that is beyond words. The ringing of bell in the temples and churches instil a new faith in us in the words of Thomas Hardy:

"God is in His Heaven.

All is right in the world"

I love evening because of its friendly and sporting spirit too. This is the unforgettable time when friends get an opportunity and enjoy their 'get together'. To keep us healthy and fit, we play games in evening only. Tired and satisfied, we pour out our heart and soul with friends and relatives in the evening only. Life becomes easy and worth living with the strength of evening moments only. Lord Byron says:

"Be thou the rainbow in the storms of life. The evening beam that smiles the clouds away and tints tomorrow with prophetic ray."

Yes. Evening is prophetic as it offers an opportunity to plan the next day, i.e. makes us a better human being as well as a better professional. This is a bridge between yesterday and tomorrow—the lessons learnt and unlearnt to move ahead for a better life and the sunset brings the promise of a new dawn. My favourite evening time is the strength of my life as it 'is a time of real experimentation. You never want to look the same way.'

(d) "Happiness comes from the realisation that difficulties are the lessons that you have to learn to become a complete individual."

Happiness is success that comes after tireless work living in a world of cut-throat competition and deep isolation. We are always lost in a crowd while adversity tends to crush us with a smile and our friends stand up for us to make the circumstances adverse even for adversity. I still remember the afternoon when Arvind sat with us in the hostel—silent and frozen surrounded by his four friends, including me. His NDA result was out and once again he couldn't clear it. I said, "There is always a next day."

I never wanted to philosophize it at least at that moment but the words came out involuntarily. Arvind had cleared NDA written test thrice but he always failed to beat the interview. It had happened again but we all were with him and were trying to cheer up his beaten spirits.

As a custom, we used to spend the evening together and once he confided to me that he was not going to appear in NDA test this year. But I pushed him hard and quite unwillingly he

applied just to keep my sentiments. As a result, he never started preparations and refused to study for exam. I was very angry with him and never left a chance to motivate him. He was stubborn—ruthlessly adamant even before two months of exams. I often picked up a fight with him as I was also adamant for his ‘last chance’. One day, after a lengthy fight, I just burst out: “Arvind, you are going to be a commander. No matter what happens but I know you will die in uniform only.”

He was stunned. I still remember his staring eyes. I don’t know what happened at the moment. To my utter surprise, he started preparing and put everything to win the toughest battle in the shortest time. Now he is serving in the army as Major.

- (e) The news of Mr. Gandhi’s arrival spread in the village like fire in the jungle. His richness impressed one and all and his family never missed an opportunity to spend money casually and ceaselessly. Their children Raghav and Roma were a lively example of a high-status family and they used to visit the village every summer. As a custom, Sonu always ran to their car and used to take out their luggage and set the house in order. Sonu was indispensable for their comfortable stay in the village and was paid very well as a domestic caretaker every year.

During their stay, the family treated Sonu very well because of his high spirits and hard work. He was a perfect solution to their problems and did all household chores well on time. Roma also often called him for work and he never disappointed her. He had often seen an expensive phone in her hand with a very big screen and used to watch her passionately whenever she was lost in her phone or took ‘selfies’. She was very fond of taking selfies and he also enjoyed it and even copied her style with his friends outside and took selfies with his friends with endless angles. They used to listen to his adventurous stories with sheer admiration and deep interest. Being so close to the rich family, he could imitate their hobbies easily and was really fond of Roma’s love for ‘selfies’.

The tall influence of Gandhi’s family and Roma’s love for selfies covers his small life so well that he is seen taking a selfie with his friends using a slipper. The picture depicts him as a spirited and zealous child who enjoys life whatever comes on his way. He was so innocent that he even narrated his ‘selfie game’ to Roma shyly. She just smiled and clapped to encourage him though he never knew what was going to happen next. When the family was returning to Mumbai after the vacations, she gifted him a mobile phone for his selfie games. Sonu, ‘the selfie boy’ is the happiest soul on the earth now!

2. (a) A II/323

Shivalik Apartments

Shivaji Road

Mumbai 4000XX

24 March 20XX

My Dear Karu

My window to the world is my school and I have shifted my school recently due to my father’s transfer. I hope you are doing well and enjoying life with your family.

My new school is a great place for me as it offers new dimensions of learning and I really love it. I have joined space science club and I also participate in horse riding. There are six horses but I like ‘Black Cloud’ the most. I like riding him as he gives me a feel of thrill and excitement.

At times, he tests my strength and skills but the game keeps me fit and fine. In academics, my maths teacher is simply marvellous. He has the easiest way to solve the most difficult problems. Besides it, a number of co-curricular and sports activities keep us well engaged and they are meticulously planned.

I miss my friends and English teacher. I do not have many friends now and the joy of sharing and shouting is really far from my life. I miss my English teacher very much. Her way of teaching was excellent.

Change is the law of nature and I am confident to love my new school as the best school in due course of time.

Your friend

Rudra Mohan

(b) D-35, Aman Villa

Savitri Enclave

Laurence Road

Delhi 1100XX

22 March 20XX

The Municipal Commissioner

New Delhi Municipal Council

New Delhi 1100XX

Dear Sir

Subject: Complaint about the wastage of water in our locality

Water is very precious for human life though few people realize it. In our locality, a lot of water is wasted due to defective taps or taps are left open carelessly and nobody bothers about them. People's casual attitude towards water magnifies the problem and water is left flowing uninterrupted for hours together.

I request you to prevent such huge wastage of water at once so that it could be utilized in a proper manner. Water awareness campaigns should be launched to make people aware of it. The leaking taps and old pipes should be checked and repaired immediately and it should be a regular exercise. The auto stop taps should be fitted so that people can't leave them open. In case of deliberate wastage of water, people should be taken to task.

Your kind attention and strict intervention in this sensitive issue of wastage of water will certainly bring desirable results.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Gautami

3. (a)

Modern Public School, New Delhi
NOTICE

5 April 20XX

Annual Carnival 20XX

Our school is going to organize Annual Carnival on 15th April 20XX in the school premises at 2 p.m. onwards. The great occasion will showcase a number of entertaining events like dance, music chair, baby show, musical concerts, etc. with a large number of stalls for all tastes: Chinese, South Indian, Punjabi and Italian dishes. All of you are cordially invited to join the mega event in a large number to make it successful.

Harish Jain
School Captain

(b)

The screenshot shows an email client window. The 'To...' field contains 'principalrosemary@gmail.com'. The 'Subject' field contains 'Invitation to send your students to participate in Annual Fete'. The email body text is as follows:

The Principal
Rosemary Public School
Delhi

Madam

The Annual Fete of our school is scheduled to be held on 20th Feb 20XX at 2 p.m. onwards.

You are requested to send your students in a large number.

Thank you
Dinesh Sharma
Head Boy
Mobile No. : 99123XXXXX

4. (a) (i) allotted (ii) perfect (iii) without support
- (b) (i) Their seating arrangement was unusual as they were free to sit anywhere they liked. Their seating desks were not assigned by teachers.
- (ii) Such method of teaching helped the teachers to know about their pupils' interests and habits. It also revealed their way of thinking and character, their choice of subjects and seats, etc.
- (iii) The pupils enjoyed their lessons very much. It was learning at their will and pace. They had the freedom to choose the subject as well as to consult the teachers whenever they liked.
- (iv) The first grade pupils were also given the freedom to choose and learn. Some of them copied the letters of the alphabet or drew pictures while others did physical exercises or read books.
- (v) 'Totto-chan wondered at first if he was doing it on purpose, but she soon realized the boy couldn't help it.'

- (c) In this school, the children were taught in an innovative and free environment. They were free to choose their subjects or seats and were never forced by the teachers. They learned willingly and happily and their learning was independent. The teachers were always there to help them and solve their problems. It was a joyful learning at their own pace and freedom.
5. (a) 1. studying 2. lay 3. read 4. hankering
5. belonging 6. learnt 7. decided 8. wanted
- (b) (i) for (ii) through (iii) on (iv) down
(v) with (vi) beside (vii) against (viii) at
- (c) (i) Sarah and Tyra, who look exactly alike, are twins.
(ii) Rohan neither likes to play cricket nor hockey.
(iii) Despite Sania pushed the door as hard as she could, it would not open.
(iv) As the clock was striking eight, the school bus drove through the gate.
- (d) (i) Books are ordered for the school library every year by the librarian.
(ii) Everyone will agree that the children have worked hard this year.
(iii) No sooner does the teacher enter, she is greeted by her students.
(iv) She is too busy to find time to entertain her friends.
(v) Despite the very hot weather, Kevin stepped out to buy some bread.
(vi) Unless Sheela goes for the audition, she will not be selected for the competition.
(vii) I prefer eating fruit to a lot of unhealthy junk food.
(viii) They cut down the tree ruthlessly.

CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER 2019

Time Allowed: 2 Hours]

[Maximum 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 this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

1. (a) “More and more, when I single out the person who inspired me most, I go back to my grandfather”

–James Earl Jones

Of course, my grandpa is my true inspiration and wonderful support. It was a beautiful sunny day in the winters when I with my brother sumit rushed into the house only to find how eagerly my grandfather was wanting us back from the school. My grandfather is a great singer and musician and it is because of his dedication only that we have won several prizes. Once again, we were selected for state level music Olympiad and were very excited to win the trophy.

I was the first to break the news to my grandfather and my brother Amrit also asked him to train us for the prestigious competition. He congratulated us with a living laughter and fixed our time table for daily practice. Both of us also made it a point to practice with him for at least three hours daily.

We knew it well that our grandfather was an expert musician and had won several awards during his life time we still remember the days how he was always busy with his art and worked very hard to excel in it. With every passing year, his fame touched new height and his thirst for music knew no limits. He was absolutely devoted to music that he loved so passionately.

For one full month, I with my brother Amrit practiced hard under his expert skill. He was very particular even to check the smallest deviation if it happened at any point. At last, the great day of competition arrived–15th August, our Independence Day. He took us to the venue and advised us all the way. We participated with full energy and enthusiasm and the result was announced after the competition–“First Position goes to Amrit and Smriti”. We were very happy but it could be possible because of our grandfather–Our lovely grandpa!

(b)

No CCTVs Please!

Education is the culture of a civilized life that demands genuine efforts to gain knowledge through a process of teaching and learning. It is never a mechanical process which could be achieved just by installing cameras in every classroom. Yes, I am not in favour of CCTVs as it will hamper the natural and free process of teaching and learning in our schools and will affect the education of children adversely.

Children go to school to learn in a free, fair and natural atmosphere of a classroom where they are also involved in many activities freely. The presence of cameras will make them conscious all the time and they will be unable to learn in a tense environment. It will also create fear in them and they will be always under pressure. It may also result in their artificial behavior to show as ‘a good child image’ and will take away the pleasure of real childhood. Moreover, the average level children will hesitate to ask about their doubts repeatedly as they will be worried and cautious of ‘a big brother watching’ them. Instead of making free flow of knowledge, the CCTV cameras will certainly hamper the process of free learning.

The installation of CCTV cameras will affect teaching adversely. It will be difficult for a teacher to teach in a spontaneous and natural way and she would always like to show herself as a perfect teacher without any real flavor for teaching. This process is simply a monitoring process which could be achieved by other simple ways too. It is also going to affect the attitude of parents in this cut-throat competitive world. Since all the parents of a class will see the activities of all children, they will blame their child for not watching the caliber of other children. The burden of the parents’ ambition will easily pass on to their children.

Thus, the installation of CCTV cameras in the classrooms is not a boon but a disaster to the cause of learning. It will destroy the real cause of education and will turn out a handy tool to make students, teachers and parents uncomfortable at all levels.

- (c) Morning Assembly is the first and foremost activity to open the school in a vibrant manner. It opens the school every day for us to learn in a cheerful, easeful, energetic, conducive and smiling manner. I was thrilled with joy when my teacher asked me to conduct the morning assembly on Gandhi Jayanti.

Being the house Captain, I called a meeting of all House Prefects and invited their suggestions on various activities to be included. We decided unanimously to stage a short skit on the life of Gandhiji highlighting the importance of cleanliness—‘Clean India, Healthy India’. ‘Thought for the Day’ was also taken from Gandhiji’s teachings and we decided to give the opportunity to a primary boy to deliver it on the stage. The responsibility for delivering a news bulletin was taken by class X girl, Akanksha. The speech on Gandhiji was also prepared by Aakash, a middle school student and he started working hard on it. I also requested my school principal to deliver a special message on the occasion. The arrangements were also made to keep our school neat and clean to celebrate cleanliness mission in true spirit and a group of volunteers came forward to take the great responsibility.

The appointed day came and we conducted a wonderful assembly. All the activities fell down in a perfect order and everybody appreciated it very much. The Principal and the teachers congratulated us with expression that it was a grand assembly where all the students played their role effectively. It was indeed a beautiful learning experience for me too as it could be made possible by our group students through various activities done in the spirit of co-operation, devotion and enthusiasm.

- (d) “SUMMERS” the dry word thrust before my eyes a picture of sweating people, nerve-breaking atmosphere, very hot climate, dull and dreary all around with hot sun dispersing unbearable heat on the earth. My city is known for extreme climate—may be summers or winters. Life becomes very hard in summers as the rising temperature affects physical comforts and makes

every much of earth unbearable. Such was the last Monday—the HOTTEST day of the season! I really felt very hot since morning with the sun flashing my house brightly and as they day passed, it became unbearable with each passing hour. Somehow, I gathered they courage to move out due to any urgency. Every inch of the road was like a boiling patch with very less traffic on the road. It was obvious that most of the people had decided to stay inside in this scorching heat. Even the shopkeepers had extended their shades to stop the heat in vain while the venders were trying to look for some shadow with their heavy fruits or vegetables trolleys the rickshaw pullers were the worst suffers—the poor fellows had to pull on the passengers in such a burning heat while their shirts were squeezed in sweat and the face also looked much pitiable. The helplessness of poverty could never be soon bitter and better than on such hot roads in terrible weather.

Not only men but birds and animals were also dangerously affected by the alarming temperature that had so badly affected their movements and activities. The cows could be seen walking tiredly in search of water or sitting nervously under the trees. The dogs breathed heavily with their tongue lolling out due to heat. Somehow, I completed my work and rushed back to the house. I rushed straight to my room and switched on the AC. Oh no! No light—it was hot and hot all around. Really, it was a Real Hot Summer Day.

(e) Raja—the Legend

Poverty is the only curse of life but the devilish curse can be easily beaten by hard work and dedication. Raja a young boy of eighteen has tasted the bitter fruits of poverty in an overwhelming manner. Raja was born in a family of labourers in a remote village of Bihar and was brought up in the absolute dearth and materialism and comfort. His father, Bholu worked on the farm of a rich landlord but he could hardly make his both endsmeet.

As a child, Raja was never sent to the school though there was a primary school in the village. He had to work with his father to earn their livelihood. When a man, Trikha from the village moved out and settled in a big city, he was sent there to work in his shop so that he could add to the meager income of the family. The shop seen in the picture belongs to Trikha and Raju handles his business right from morning to night.

Trikha's shop-Govardhan Bakery was near the schools and small children in shining uniform also came there to buy bakery products like chocolates, toffees, bread and jam etc. He was very happy to see them and also chatted with them. He often remembered his childhood when he also wanted to wear a uniform and go to school to read a number of books with colourful pictures. He soon realized that it was not his destiny.

Once Raja expressed his hidden desire to go to school to Trikha. But re realized he was over age and it was not possible to join a school with children. But Trikha was impressed by his determination and he advised him to study at home and join an evening school too. Raja understood that it meant a lot of hardwork but he never stopped back and soon passed class X with distinction in all subjects. Trikha encourages him continuously and this year, Raja is going to appear in class XII exam. With determination and courage Raja is on the road of becoming a 'Real Raja'.

2. (a) F-18, Raj villa
Ranjeet Nagar
Delhi

28 June 20XX

The Principal
Arow Learning Public School
Rohini
Delhi

Sir

Subject: Request for giving permission to start Reading club.

Reading is the backbone of knowledge and not education is possible without excellent reading skills. It has been observed that 'Reading' is losing its attraction among the young students. So I want to open a reading club in the school.

In this age of television and computers, the children have lost taste and hunger for reading newspapers, magazines, short stories and books etc. Even in their studies, they usually depend on supplementary notes and guides keeping themselves away from the real learning.

It is the need of hour to create and revive their lost interest in reading. Reading clubs could be opened at class level and then at higher levels.

I am confident that you will give me permission to open Reading clubs in school. It will be a wonderful beginning to motivate the students for reading habits.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Riya Nigam

(b) C-254, Abu Lane
Gandhi Nagar
Ahmedabad

28 October 20XX

My dear Reema

Recently I came to know about your poor performance in mid term exam of class Xth. I am a little shocked to know about it but I have full faith in your capability.

I advise you not to worry much about your mid-term results but you need to work hard regularly for your annual exams now. Since you have not fared well in English and social science, you need to devote more time to these subjects. Read the text books, understand them well and prepare your own notes including important points of each chapter or concept etc. Revise your notes thoroughly with the text and write answers yourself. The practice of reading and writing will clarify of understanding and you will be able to write your papers well.

I also advise you to solve last three years CBSE Examination Paper in writing. Don't hesitate to get your solved questions checked by your teacher and do the necessary follow up.

I am confident that you will do very well in your annual exam.

With best wishes


Yours affectionately

Anil Anand

3. (a)

Arow Learning Public School Delhi NOTICE
1 October 20XX
Inter School Quiz Competition
An Inter school Quiz Competition is going to be organized in our school on 25 October 20XX and many top public schools are participating in it.
The team will comprised six participants and the selection will be done after screening test. Those students who wish to participate must submit their name to Quiz captain latest by 5 October 20XX.
Aarti Chopra School Captain

(b)

	To...	principalarps@gmail.com
	Cc...	
	Subject:	Invitation for inter school quiz competition
<p>The Principal Ayn Rand Public School Delhi</p> <p>Madam,</p> <p>Our school is going to organize an inter school Quiz competition on 25 October 20XX. You are requested to send a team of six students for participation. A copy of rules and regulations is enclosed herewith. Please send your entry latest by 15 October 20XX.</p> <p>Thank you Principal Arow learning Public School</p>		

4. (a) (i) wonderful (ii) noticed (iii) quickly/naturally
(b) (i) Billy was looking for a hotel at night. The porter assisted him by directing him to the Bell Hotel.

- (ii) He wanted to do everything briskly as he was doing the practice to do all work briskly like the big shots at the headquarter.
- (iii) It was a place with a few scattered houses. The animals infused a sense of safety and security in him.
- (iv) Then a queer thing happened to him.
- (v) The room cost him five dollars only including breakfast.
- (c) As Billy saw in the room, he found it a cozy and comfortable room with fire burning in the hearth. A little dog was sleeping and a parrot was in the cage alongwith a piano, a big sofa and many chairs. He found it a comfortable room to stay at night.
5. (a) 1. Lived 2. Named 3. Saw 4. Consumed
 5. labored 6. Plowing 7. Turning 8. Tending
- (b) (i) under (ii) about (iii) into (iv) across
 (v) for (vi) off (vii) to (viii) with
- (c) (i) Though he was very ill, he didn't take any medicine.
 (ii) We will discuss the problem after your return from holiday.
 (iii) It was foolish of him to remain absent on Friday.
- (d) (i) The old woman asked Arun if he could help her to cross the street.
 (ii) No sooner the sun rose over the hills, the fog disappeared.
 (iii) It rained too heavily to allow them to go for picnic.
 (iv) Unless your friends get here before 7 o'clock, we can't take them for picnic.
 (v) The students of classes X and XII elected the school captain.
 (vi) No other island in the world is larger than Greenland.
 (vii) It was cruel of shylock to demand his pound of flesh.
 (viii) Arun's mother asked him for an explanation on the missing buttons of his shirt.