



# **LATEST EXAMINATION PAPERS**

**CLASS  
10**

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# LATEST EXAMINATION PAPER, 2026

*Time Allowed: 2 Hours]*

*[Maximum Marks: 80*

## **General instructions:**

- 1. Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*
- 2. You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15 minutes**.*
- 3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*
- 4. The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*
- 5. Attempt **all five** questions.*
- 6. The intended marks for questions or parts of the questions are given in brackets [ ].*
- 7. You are advised to spend more than **30 minutes** in answering **Question 1** and **20 minutes** in answering **Question 2**.*

## **Question 1**

*(Do not spend more than **30 minutes** on this question.)*

Write a composition (300–350 words) on **any one** of the following: [20]

- Write an original short story beginning with the words: It was midnight and the doorbell rang...
- If you could change one period in your school timetable, which one would you choose? Why do you think it needs to be changed and with which subject or activity would you replace it?

(iii) You and your family enjoy eating out. Give a description of your favourite restaurant or food stall, and the sights and smells that attract you to the place. Explain why you like eating here.

(iv) *'Homework is a necessary evil.'*

Express your views either **for** or **against** this statement.

(v) 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.



## Question 2

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

Select **any one** of the following:

[10]

- (i) Your examinations are drawing near, and you would like to form a study group. Write a letter to one of your classmates inviting him or her to join it. Give details of how you plan to revise and explain why it would be helpful.
- (ii) The drainage system in your locality needs repair. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner stating the problems caused due to this. Suggest solutions to improve the situation.

### Question 3

- (i) Your school is organising an Inter House Non-Flame Cooking Competition. Write a notice informing the students about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to a famous chef, inviting him/her to judge the event. [5]

### Question 4

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

“This is your teacher today. He’s going to show you all sorts of things.” With that the headmaster introduced a new teacher. Totto-chan took a good look at him but he wasn’t dressed like a teacher at all. He wore a striped cotton jacket and he had a towel hanging around his neck. His trousers were of dyed cotton and were full of patches. Instead of shoes, he wore thick socks, while on his head was a rather *dilapidated* straw hat.

The children were all assembled by the pond at the temple.

As she stared at the teacher, Totto-chan thought that she had seen him before.

“Where?” she wondered. His kindly face was sunburnt and full of wrinkles.

She suddenly remembered! 10

“Aren’t you the farmer who works in the field by the stream?” she asked him, delighted.

“That’s right,” said the ‘teacher’, with a smile wrinkling up his face. “You pass my place every time you go to the village!

That’s my field. That one over there full of mustard blossoms.”

“Wow! So you’re going to be our teacher today,” cried the children excitedly.

“No!” said the man, waving his hand in front of his face. “I’m not a teacher! I’m just a farmer. Your headmaster just asked me to do it, that’s all.”

“Oh yes, he is, he’s your farming teacher,” said the headmaster, standing beside him. “He very kindly agreed to teach you how to plant a field.” 20

At an *elementary* school, anyone who taught the children anything would probably have to have teaching qualifications, but the headmaster didn't worry about things like that. He thought it important for children to learn by actually seeing things done.

"Let's begin then," said the farming teacher.

The farming teacher told the children to get spades and other tools from the car and started them on weeding. He told them all about weeds: how hardy they were; how some grew faster than crops and hid the sun from them; how weeds were good hiding places for bad insects; and how weeds could be a nuisance by taking all the nourishment from the soil. He taught them one thing 30 after another. And while he talked, his hands never stopped pulling out weeds. The children did the same. Then the teacher showed them how to dig, how to make furrows; how to spread fertilizer; and everything else you had to do to grow things in a field, explaining as he demonstrated.

A little snake put its head out and very nearly bit the hand of Ta-chan, one of the older boys, but the farming teacher reassured him, "The snakes here are not poisonous, and they won't hurt you if you don't hurt them."

Besides teaching the children how to plant a field, the farming teacher told them interesting things about insects, birds, and butterflies, about the weather, and about all sorts of other things. 40

*[Adapted from 'Totto-chan – The Little Girl at the Window' by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi]*

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. dilapidated (*line 6*)

(a) faded and yellow

(b) new and shining

(c) tightly wrapped

(d) old and ragged

2. elementary (*line 21*)
- (a) primary (b) special
- (c) secondary (d) village
- (ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'boring'? [1]
- (a) important (b) nuisance
- (c) nourishment (d) interesting
- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:
- (a) How was the new teacher dressed? [2]
- (b) Which sentence in the passage tells us that Totto-chan had seen the new teacher before? [2]
- (c) Why do you think the headmaster had to correct the farmer about his role? [2]
- (d) Why was the headmaster right in inviting the new teacher to take a class? [2]
- (e) What did the farmer say that proved that he knew a lot about snakes? [1]
- (iv) In not more than 50 words, give an account of what the farmer taught the children that day. [8]

### Question 5

- (i) 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:** The road northwards through Tanganyika was narrow and often deeply rutted. And once I (0) ..... (see) a very large brown cobra.

**Answer:** saw

It (1) ..... (glide) slowly over the ruts in the road ahead of me. It was seven or eight feet long and (2) ..... (hold) its flat spoon-shaped head six inches up in the air. I (3) ..... (stop) the car smartly so as not (4) ..... (run) over it. To be truthful,

I was so (5) ..... (frighten), I (6) ..... (go) quickly into reverse and (7) ..... (keep) backing away. The fearsome thing (8) ..... (disappear) into the undergrowth.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]

- (a) He acted according ..... my instructions.
- (b) They scaled up the wall ..... means of a rope.
- (c) Gina has a passion ..... music.
- (d) Father patted Jai ..... his back for his good results.
- (e) I have not seen Sonia ..... last May.
- (f) They worked ..... the night to complete the project on time.
- (g) Ms. Sharma refused to buy a new car because the cost was ..... her means.
- (h) Saif knew nothing about the event since it had happened ..... he was born.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so.** [4]

1. He picked up the bundle. He walked away.
  - (a) He picked up the bundle and walked away.
  - (b) Packing up the bundle, he walked away.
  - (c) Picking up the bundle, he walked away.
  - (d) He walked away by picking up the bundle.
2. Ravi is not a technician. Ravi is not a musician.
  - (a) Ravi is both a technician also a musician.
  - (b) Ravi is neither a technician nor a musician.
  - (c) Besides not being a technician, Ravi is a musician.
  - (d) Ravi is not a musician but a technician.

3. Tanya is extremely polite. We like her.
- (a) Tanya is extremely polite but we like her.
  - (b) We like Tanya despite her being extremely polite.
  - (c) Tanya's extremely polite ways make us like her.
  - (d) We like Tanya because she is extremely polite.
4. The construction started on time. It was delayed due to the bad weather.
- (a) Although the construction started on time, it was delayed due to the bad weather.
  - (b) Since the construction started on time, it was delayed due to the bad weather.
  - (c) The construction started on time, so it was delayed due to the bad weather.
  - (d) The construction started on time, as well as got delayed due to the bad weather.
- (iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each. [8]
1. Samudragupta was one of the greatest of the Indian kings.
- (End with: ...Samudragupta.)*
- (a) No other king is as great as Samudragupta.
  - (b) All other kings are greater than Samudragupta.
  - (c) Very few Indian kings were as great as Samudragupta.
  - (d) Some Indian kings are greatest as Samudragupta.
2. One should keep one's promises.
- (Begin with: Promises ...)*
- (a) Promises should keep one.
  - (b) One's promises are not meant to be kept.
  - (c) Promises should be kept.
  - (d) Promises are one's to keep.

3. He said, "I have passed the examination."  
(*Begin: He said that.....*)
- (a) He said that he had passed the examination.
  - (b) He said that he passed the examination.
  - (c) He said that he has passed the examination.
  - (d) He said that he will pass the examination.
4. He finished his exercise and put his books away.  
(*Begin: Having .....*)
- (a) Having his books put away, he exercised.
  - (b) Having put his books away, he finished his exercise.
  - (c) Having finished his exercise, he put his books away.
  - (d) Having to finish his exercise, he put his books away.
5. Unless she practises every day, she will not be able to meet her goal.  
(*Begin with: If...*)
- (a) If she practises every day, she will be able to meet her goal.
  - (b) If she practises every day, she will not be able to meet her goal.
  - (c) If she does not practise every day, her goal will be met.
  - (d) If she practises every day, her goal will not be met.
6. Rashmi was too late to hear the first speech.  
(*Use: ....so...that...*)
- (a) Rashmi was so late for the first speech.
  - (b) Rashmi was so late that she could hear the first speech.
  - (c) Rashmi is so late that she cannot hear the first speech.
  - (d) Rashmi was so late that she could not hear the first speech.

7. There is a slight difference between the two shades.

(Use: 'different')

(a) The slight difference is between two shades.

(b) The two shades are slightly different.

(c) The slightly different shades are between two.

(d) The two different shades are slightly different.

8. Dr. Shetty is a professor and a research scientist.

(Begin with: Not only.....)

(a) Not only was Dr. Shetty a professor but also a research scientist.

(b) Not only is Dr. Shetty a professor as well as a research scientist.

(c) Dr. Shetty is both a professor and research scientist.

(d) Not only is Dr. Shetty a professor but also a research scientist.

# ANSWERS

1. (i) *It was midnight and the doorbell rang.* I sat upright in bed, my heart thudding against my ribs. The house was silent except for the ticking clock in the hallway. Mum and Dad were visiting my grandparents, and I was alone for the first time at night. I stared at the glowing digits on my phone—12:03 a.m.

The doorbell rang again. Long. Insistent.

I slipped out of bed and tiptoed to the window. The street outside was empty, bathed in pale yellow streetlight. No cars. No shadows. No movement. My imagination began to race with every scary story I had ever heard.

Trying to steady myself, I walked downstairs. Each step creaked louder than usual. I stopped at the door and looked through the peephole.

Nothing.

My breath fogged the tiny glass circle. Maybe it was a prank. Maybe some kids had run away. I almost turned back when I heard something faint—a soft whimper.

I opened the door.

There, curled up on the doormat, was a small brown puppy. Its fur was soaked from the cold mist outside, and its dark eyes looked up at me hopefully. Around its neck was a red collar with a folded note tucked inside.

I quickly brought the puppy in and shut the door. My fear melted into concern as it shivered in my arms. I unfolded the damp note.

“If you find Bruno, please keep him safe. I had to move away suddenly and couldn’t take him with me. He deserves a loving home.”

There was no name. No address. Just those words.

The puppy licked my hand, as if sealing a silent promise.

I laughed softly, the tension of a few minutes ago feeling silly now. Midnight had brought me not a ghost or a thief—but a friend.

As Bruno curled up beside me on the couch, I realised something strange: the street had been completely empty when I looked outside. Whoever left him had disappeared without a sound.

I smiled.

Some mysteries aren't meant to be solved. Some are meant to be welcomed home.

- (ii) If I could change one period in my school timetable, I would choose the last period on Friday, which is usually reserved for extra written practice in subjects like grammar or problem-solving worksheets. By the end of the week, most students are mentally tired, and that period often feels unproductive. Instead of truly learning, we are simply trying to get through the final hour before the weekend.

I believe this period needs to be changed because learning is most effective when students are attentive and motivated. On Friday afternoons, our energy levels are low, and concentration becomes difficult. As a result, the quality of learning decreases. Rather than forcing ourselves to complete more written work, it would be better to engage in something refreshing yet meaningful.

I would replace this period with a “Creative and Life Skills” session. This could include activities such as public speaking, basic financial literacy, creative writing, art, music, debate, or even simple discussions about real-life situations. These are skills that are extremely important but often do not get enough space in the regular timetable.

Such a change would help students discover hidden talents and build confidence. For example, some students who may not perform very well in traditional academic subjects might shine in drama, storytelling, or designing projects. It would also reduce stress and make school feel more balanced and enjoyable.

Moreover, ending the week with a creative or interactive activity would leave students feeling positive and motivated. Instead of associating Friday afternoons with exhaustion, we would look forward to them. This small change could make a big difference in student engagement and overall development.

In my opinion, education should not only focus on textbooks but also on preparing students for life. Replacing one routine period with a creative and life skills session would be a meaningful step in that direction.

- (iii) My family and I love trying different places to eat, but our favourite spot is a small food stall near the main market in Dadri. It is not very fancy, and there are no soft chairs or air-conditioners, yet it has a charm that always pulls us back. The stall is called “*Sharma Chaat Bhandar*,” and from a distance, you can already see a small crowd gathered around it.

The first thing that attracts us is the smell. As we walk closer, the warm aroma of freshly fried *samosas* and crispy *aloo tikki* fills the air. The vendor stands behind a large iron tawa, where the patties sizzle loudly, sending up tiny clouds of steam. The smell of spices—cumin, coriander, and red chilli—mixes with the tangy scent of tamarind chutney. It is impossible not to feel hungry.

The sight is just as inviting. Bright green coriander leaves are sprinkled over golden *chaat*, and pomegranate seeds shine like tiny red jewels on top of creamy *dahi bhalla*. The colorful chutneys—deep brown tamarind and fresh green mint—are poured generously over the dishes, creating a beautiful mix of colours. Strings of yellow lights hang above the stall, making the place look warm and cheerful in the evening.

What I love most is the lively atmosphere. People stand close together, chatting and laughing while waiting for their plates. The vendor works quickly, smiling as he prepares each order. Sometimes, he even gives us extra chutney because we are regular customers.

Eating here feels special because it is not just about the food. It is about spending time with my family, sharing plates, and talking about our day. The flavours are bold and unforgettable, but the memories we create there are even more meaningful. That is why this simple food stall remains our favourite place to eat.

(iv) **Homework is a Necessary Evil**

**For the Motion:**

Homework is often described as a “necessary evil” because, although it may not be enjoyable, it plays an important role in a student’s education. After spending long hours in school, most students feel tired and wish to relax.

Homework can seem like an extra burden that takes away free time. It may cause stress, especially when there are multiple assignments to complete within a short period. In this sense, it feels like an “evil.”

However, homework is necessary because it reinforces what is taught in class. Practice helps students understand concepts more clearly and remember them for a longer time. Subjects like Mathematics and Science require regular problem-solving, while languages need writing and reading practice. Homework also teaches responsibility, discipline, and time management. When students complete tasks on their own, they develop independent learning skills. Therefore, even though homework may sometimes feel unpleasant, it is essential for academic growth. Like medicine that tastes bitter but cures illness, homework may not always be liked, but it benefits students in the long run.

**Against the Motion:**

Many people believe homework is a necessary evil, but I disagree with this view. Homework should not be considered an “evil” at all. When planned properly, it can be interesting, meaningful, and even enjoyable. The real problem lies not in homework itself, but in the quantity and type assigned.

Students already spend several hours at school learning new concepts. After school, they need time to relax, play, pursue hobbies, and spend time with family. Excessive homework can create stress, anxiety, and lack of sleep. It may reduce creativity and enthusiasm for learning. In some cases, students complete homework just to avoid punishment rather than to gain knowledge.

Education should promote balanced development. Instead of giving large amounts of written work, teachers can assign creative tasks, practical projects, or group discussions. Such activities make learning engaging rather than burdensome.

Therefore, homework should not be labelled as a “necessary evil.” With proper planning and moderation, learning can continue beyond the classroom without becoming stressful or negative.

- (v) In the middle of a dusty open ground, two young children sat proudly on their “motorcycle.” It was not made of shining metal or polished chrome, but of

two large old tyres and a bright yellow bucket placed carefully between them. Yet, to them, it was the fastest and grandest bike in the world.

The afternoon sun cast long shadows on the dirt, and the air was filled with the sounds of distant traffic and playful laughter. The older child held an imaginary handlebar, twisting his wrist as if accelerating. “Vroom! We’re going uphill!” he shouted excitedly. The younger one clutched the sides of the bucket, eyes wide with thrill, leaning slightly as though they were taking a sharp turn.

There were no fuel and no engine—only imagination. The tyres, probably discarded by a nearby mechanic, had become wheels of adventure. The yellow bucket was transformed into a powerful engine. The uneven ground turned into winding roads, steep mountains, and busy highways in their minds.

Their clothes were simple and slightly dusty, but their smiles were bright and fearless. They did not need expensive toys or video games to feel joy. With creativity and teamwork, they had built something special out of almost nothing.

Watching them, one might realise an important truth: happiness does not depend on wealth or luxury. It comes from imagination, companionship, and the ability to see possibility where others see waste. The children’s makeshift motorcycle was more than just a toy—it was a symbol of resilience and creativity.

As they laughed and pretended to race into the distance, their world felt boundless. In that simple dirt area, with two tyres and a bucket, they had created freedom, adventure, and memories that would last far longer than any real motorcycle ever could.

2. (i) 12/III

Ankur Vihar

Ghaziabad (UP)

Dear Ashish

I hope you are doing well. As you know, our examinations are drawing near, and I have been thinking seriously about preparing in a more organised way this time. I am planning to form a small study group with a few classmates, and I would really like you to join us.



We can meet every evening for about two hours, either at my house or online. We will divide the subjects and take turns explaining important chapters, solving sample papers, and clearing doubts. For Mathematics and Science, we can practise difficult questions, and for English and Social Studies, we can revise key points and expected answers. Studying together will keep us motivated, make revision interesting, and help reduce exam stress. I hope you will join the group. Looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Atul

(ii) 241/9

South Extension-I

New Delhi

14 September 20XX

The Municipal Commissioner

South Delhi

**Subject:** Urgent need for repair of drainage system in our locality

Respected Sir/Madam

I wish to draw your attention to the poor condition of the drainage system in our locality. The drains are frequently clogged and overflow during even light rainfall. Dirty water collects on the roads, creating foul smells and unhygienic conditions. This has led to an increase in mosquitoes and poses a serious health risk to residents, especially children and elderly people.

The stagnant water also damages roads and causes inconvenience to pedestrians and vehicles. We request the authorities to arrange for immediate cleaning and repair of the drains. Regular maintenance, proper waste disposal measures, and covering of open drains would greatly improve the situation.

We hope you will take prompt action in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Shivam Chawla

A concerned citizen

3. (i)

ABC Public School, Dadri

NOTICE

Inter-House Non-Flame Cooking Competition

23 February 20XX

Our school is organising an Inter-House Non-Flame Cooking Competition on 5 March 20XX at 10:00 a.m. in the school auditorium. Interested students from Classes VI to X may give their names to their House Captains by 1 March 20XX. Attractive prizes will be awarded.

Rahul Deewan

Head Boy

(ii)

MailContactsCalendarNotepad

SendSave as a DraftSpell CheckCancel

From : rohanheadboy@gmail.com

To : sanjeevkapoor@gmail.com

Cc :

Date : 2 April 20XX

Subject : Invitation to Judge Inter-House Non-Flame Cooking Competition

Attach Files

Rich Text

Dear Chef Sanjeev Kapoor,

I hope you are well. Our school is organising an Inter-House Non-Flame Cooking Competition on 5 April 20XX. We would be honoured if you could grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and Judge. Your presence would greatly inspire young budding chefs.

Kindly let us know your availability.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Rohan Srivastava

Head Boy

ABC Public School, Dadri

SendSave as a DraftSpell CheckCancel

4. (i) (1) (d) old and ragged  
(2) (a) primary  
(ii) (d) interesting  
(iii) (a) The new teacher was not dressed like a regular teacher. He wore a striped cotton jacket, patched dyed cotton trousers, thick socks instead of shoes, and a worn-out straw hat. He also had a towel hanging around his neck.  
(b) "As she stared at the teacher, Totto-chan thought that she had seen him before."  
(c) The headmaster had to correct the farmer because the farmer said he was not a teacher, only a farmer. The headmaster clarified that he was the children's *farming teacher* for the day, as he had agreed to teach them how to plant a field.  
(d) The headmaster was right in inviting the new teacher because he believed children learn better by seeing things done practically. The teacher had real knowledge and experience of farming, so he could teach them in a clear and practical way.  
(e) The farmer said, "The snakes here are not poisonous, and they won't hurt you if you don't hurt them." This shows that he knew a lot about snakes and understood their nature.
- (iv) The farmer taught the children how to weed, dig, make furrows, and spread fertilizer. He explained how weeds harm crops and demonstrated each task while working. He also shared interesting facts about insects, birds, butterflies, snakes, and the weather, giving them practical knowledge about farming and nature.
5. (i) 1. glided  
2. held  
3. stopped  
4. to run  
5. frightened  
6. went  
7. kept  
8. disappeared

- (ii) (a) He acted according to my instructions.  
(b) They scaled up the wall by means of a rope.  
(c) Gina has a passion for music.  
(d) Father patted Jai on his back for his good results.  
(e) I have not seen Sonia since last May.  
(f) They worked through the night to complete the project on time.  
(g) Ms. Sharma refused to buy a new car because the cost was beyond her means.  
(h) Saif knew nothing about the event since it had happened before he was born.
- (iii) 1. (c) Picking up the bundle, he walked away.  
2. (b) Ravi is neither a technician nor a musician.  
3. (d) We like Tanya because she is extremely polite.  
4. (a) Although the construction started on time, it was delayed due to the bad weather.
- (iv) 1. (c) Very few Indian kings were as great as Samudragupta.  
2. (c) Promises should be kept.  
3. (a) He said that he had passed the examination.  
4. (c) Having finished his exercise, he put his books away.  
5. (a) If she practises every day, she will be able to meet her goal.  
6. (d) Rashmi was so late that she could not hear the first speech.  
7. (b) The two shades are slightly different.  
8. (d) Not only is Dr. Shetty a professor but also a research scientist.

# EXAMINATION PAPER 2025

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*Time Allowed: 2 hrs.]*

*[Maximum Marks: 80*

*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.*

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*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**.*

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## **Question 1.**

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

**Write a composition (300–350 words) on any one of the following:** [20]

- (i) Write an original short story in which a poor tailor wins an award which changes his/her life.
- (ii) Your friends once played a harmless prank on you. Give an account of what happened, your response to the prank and what you learnt from the experience.
- (iii) Describe what you see and hear as you move about the corridors and compound during your school break time. How does the scene change after the bell rings?
- (iv) ‘More collaboration, less competition is the need of the hour.’

Express your views either for or against this statement.

- (v) 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.



**Question 2.**

[10]

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

**Select any one of the following:**

- (i) Your grandmother has taught you a special skill. Write a letter thanking her. Explain how you will use that skill and why it is important to you.
- (ii) There is no bus stop in your locality. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your town/city complaining about the problem. Offer possible solutions.

**Question 3.**

- (i) Your school is hosting an Inter School Story Writing Competition. Write a notice informing the students about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to a famous person inviting him/her to be the Judge on the occasion. [5]



#### Question 4.

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

A little later, when he went to the pump to wash, he saw the school children pouring by with their *satchels* across their shoulders. They all wore the same clothes – grey shorts or skirts and light blue shirts or blouses – faded and mended, and they all had their hair oiled and combed down very flat. Some went by in laughing, racing groups, others had to be led by their mothers or grandparents to the school building. This reminded him of his sisters in the village.

The boys in the kitchen now looked at him with less hostility. Jagu seemed pleased with Hari too, and sometimes handed him a glass of tea in the middle of the day. When he had a few moments to *spare*, Jagu sat down at one of the long wooden tables, drummed loudly on it and sang a song in a dialect Hari did not know. When he caught Hari listening and smiling, he smiled back.

Then Hari knew that he too had a village somewhere that he called home. It was just that he was a silent, hardworking, worried man and had no time and no gift for speech.

It was the watch mender, Mr. Panwallah, who was truly a benefactor, the kindest and most helpful of all. One afternoon, during those hot, still hours when there were no customers for a change, Hari was standing in front of the eating house, idly watching the traffic because he was too tired to do anything else, and Mr. Panwallah called to him to come and sit beside him on the bench behind the counter in his shop.

“Want to help?” he asked. “Want to learn how to make a clock tick? I’m just going to open this big grandfather clock sent to me for repair – you’ll be able to see the workings plain. Don’t often get a piece like this anymore – wall clocks, yes, and electronic gadgets – but you don’t often come upon a grandfather clock like this. It’s a real piece of luck, being able to show you

one of this size. Look,” he said, swinging open the door at the back and revealing the machinery to a fascinated Hari who felt as if the door had opened into a new and strange house. Mr. Panwallah showed Hari what was wrong with it, what had made it stop. “Interesting, isn’t it? How would you like to learn? Tell you what – I’ll take you on as an apprentice. You don’t have much to do between two and four, do you? Of course you will have to ask Jagu first. I can pay you a little, not much, and you can help me for two hours a day. Perhaps I can make a watch mender of you.”

—*Village by the Sea, Anita Desai*

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. satchels (*line 2*)

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) snatching   | (b) scarves  |
| (c) school bags | (d) sweaters |

2. spare (*line 10*)

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) share | (b) offer |
| (c) thin  | (d) extra |

(ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of ‘closed’? [1]

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| (a) behind | (b) fascinated |
| (c) opened | (d) revealing  |

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

- |                                             |     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) How were the school children dressed?   | [2] |
| (b) In what way was Jagu kind to Hari?      | [2] |
| (c) What did the song tell Hari about Jagu? | [2] |



(d) Which sentence in the passage tells us that Jagu was not a talkative man?

[2]

(e) Why were there no customers at that time of the day?

[1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words describe how Mr. Panwallah introduced Hari to watch mending.

[8]

### Question 5.

(i) 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:

One day we (0) ..... (lift) the box up.

Answer: (0) lifted

We (1) ..... (find) a dead mouse (2) ..... (lie) among our treasures. It (3) ..... (be) an exciting discovery. A boy took it up by its tail and (4) ..... (wave) it in front of our faces.

“What shall we do with it?” he (5) ..... (cry). “It stinks!” someone (6) ..... (shout).

“Throw it out of the window quick!”

He (7) ..... (hesitate). They all (8) ..... (look) at me.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

[4]

(a) My best friend, John is named ..... his grandfather.

(b) A grey mist hung ..... the fields.

(c) The little girl spoke ..... against the bully.

(d) They accused him ..... theft.

(e) The police got the fire ..... control.

(f) There is a bridge ..... the river.

(g) The driver jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the car.

(h) I have not seen my uncle \_\_\_\_\_ last summer.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using *and*, *but* or *so*. [4]

1. These are fresh mangoes. I bought them yesterday.

(a) These are fresh mangoes which I bought yesterday.

(b) These mangoes were fresher when I bought them yesterday.

(c) These are fresh mangoes which were bought yesterday.

(d) These are fresh mangoes brought by me yesterday.

2. The debating teams were very happy. They were declared joint champions.

(a) The debating teams were very happy as they have been declared joint champions.

(b) The debating teams are very happy as they are declared joint champions.

(c) The debating teams were very happy as they had been declared joint champions.

(d) The debating teams will be very happy as they will be declared joint champions.

3. The rain came down. All the people ran away.

(a) When the rain came down, all the people ran away.

(b) When it rained, the people ran away.

(c) The rain had come down all the people ran away.

(d) The rain having come, all the people ran away.

4. The disciple was wise. The teacher did not trust him.

(a) Although the disciple was wise yet the teacher trusted him.

(b) Although the disciple was not wise the teacher trusted him.

(c) Although the disciple is wise, the teacher trusted him.

(d) Although the disciple was wise, the teacher did not trust him.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each. [8]

1. The teacher said, 'come early tomorrow, the examination begins at eight o'clock.'

(Begin: *The teacher told us to .....*)

- (a) The teacher told us to come early the next day as the examination would begin at eight o'clock.
- (b) The teacher told us to come early tomorrow as the examination begins at eight o'clock.
- (c) The teacher told us the examination will begin at eight o'clock so come early tomorrow.
- (d) The teacher told us to come by eight o'clock as the examination will begin early the next day.

2. Rahul not only plays the guitar but also the drums.

(Use: *'as well as'*)

- (a) Rahul plays the guitar as well as the drums.
- (b) Rahul plays the guitar as well the drums.
- (c) Rahul plays the guitar as well as he does the drums.
- (d) Rahul play's the guitar and the drums as well.

3. She said she would not be available.

(Add a question tag)

- (a) Didn't she say that she would not be available?
- (b) She said she would not be available, did she?
- (c) She said she would not be available, didn't she?
- (d) She said she would not be available, wouldn't she?

4. This is the most beautiful painting in the exhibition.

(Begin: *No other .....*)

- (a) No other painting is as beautiful as this exhibition.
- (b) No other painting in this exhibition is beautiful.

- (c) No other painting is beautiful as this painting in the exhibition.
- (d) No other painting in the exhibition is as beautiful as this one.
5. I prefer aerobics to yoga.
- (Use: 'rather')
- (a) I would rather do aerobics to yoga.
- (b) I would rather do aerobics than yoga.
- (c) I would rather prefer aerobics than yoga.
- (d) I would rather do yoga than aerobics.
6. The coach taught the children the rules of the game.
- (Begin: The rules .....)
- (a) The rule have being taught by the coach to the children.
- (b) The rules of the game have been taught by the children to the coach.
- (c) The rules of the game is taught by the coach to the children.
- (d) The rules of the game were taught by the coach to the children.
7. The rules of the game were taught by the coach to the children.
- (Begin: As soon as .....)
- (a) As soon as the film star arrived then the crowd cheered.
- (b) As soon as the film star arrives the crowd starts cheering.
- (c) As soon as the crowd cheers the film star arrives.
- (d) As soon as the film star arrived the crowd cheered.
8. School bags are often too heavy for students to carry.
- (Use: 'so')
- (a) School bags are so heavy students cannot carry them.
- (b) School bags are often so heavy that students cannot carry them.
- (c) School bags are often so heavy for students to carry.
- (d) School bags are heavy so students cannot carry them.

# EXAMINATION PAPER 2024

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*Time Allowed: 2 hrs.]*

*[Maximum Marks: 80*

*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**.*

---

## **Question 1.**

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

**Write a composition (300–350 words) on any one of the following:** [20]

- (i) Write an original short story entitled ‘A Strange Visitor’.
- (ii) Narrate an incident from your experience in which your parents had entrusted you with a difficult task. Give details of the task, how you carried it out and your feelings at the end.
- (iii) Describe how you spend your time on a holiday afternoon. Why do you think it is necessary to have these times of quietness and solitude?
- (iv) Express your views either for *or* against the statement ‘Junk food should be banned’.
- (v) 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.



**Question 2.**

[10]

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

**Select any one of the following:**

- (i) Your friend was absent from school on a day when an unfortunate incident took place for which you were blamed. Write a letter to your friend giving details about the incident, your role in it and how the matter was finally resolved.
- (ii) You wish to stage a play to create awareness about the importance of saving electricity. Write a letter to the Manager of a nearby shopping mall/supermarket requesting permission to use the space in front of the shopping mall/supermarket to stage the play. Give him/her details about your requirements and state why the play will be beneficial to the shoppers.

**Question 3.**

- (i) Your school is hosting an Inter School Dance Competition. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing the students about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school to request him/her to send their dance teacher to act as a judge for the competition. [5]



**Question 4.**

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

Ashamanja Babu lived in a small flat in Bhowanipore. A clerk in the registry department of Lajpat Rai Post Office. Ashamanja Babu was fortunate as he could walk to his office in seven minutes flat without having to fight his way into the buses and trains of Calcutta. He lived a rather carefree life as he was not the kind of person to sit and brood about what might have been had Fate been kinder to him. On the whole, he was quite content with his lot. Two Hindi films and fish twice a week - these were enough to keep him happy. The only thing that **perturbed** him at times was his lack of companionship. A bachelor with few friends and relatives, he often wished he had a dog to keep him company. It need not be a huge Alsatian like the one owned by the Talukdars, 10 who lived two houses down the lane; it could be any ordinary little dog which would follow him around morning and evening, wag its tail when he came home from work and obey his orders faithfully. Ashamanja Babu's secret desires were that he would speak to his dog in English. 'Stand up', 'Sit down', 'Shake hands' – how nice it would be if his dog obeyed such commands! That would make him really happy.

On a cloudy day marked by a steady drizzle, Ashamanja Babu went to the market in Hashimara to buy some oranges. At one end of the market, beside a **stunted** kul tree, sat a man. As their eyes met, the man smiled. Was he a beggar? His clothes made him look like one. Ashamanja Babu noticed at least 20 five sewn-on patches on his trousers and jacket. But the man didn't have a begging bowl. Instead, by his side was a shoe-box with a little pup sticking its head out of it.

'Good morning!' said the man in English. Ashamanja Babu was obliged to return the greeting.

‘Buy dog? Dog buy? Very good dog.’ The man had taken the pup out of the box and had put it down on the ground. ‘Very cheap. Very good. Happy dog.’ The pup shook the raindrops off its coat, looked at Ashamanja Babu and wagged its minuscule two-inch tail. Ashamanja Babu moved closer to the pup, crouched on the ground and stretched out his hand. The pup gave his ring 30 finger a lick with its pink tongue. Nice, friendly dog.

‘How much? What price?’

‘Ten rupees.’

A little haggling and the price came down to seven rupees. Ashamanja Babu paid the money, put the pup back in the shoe-box, closed the lid to save it from the drizzle, and turned homewards, forgetting all about the oranges.

—*Ashamanja Babu’s Dog* by Satyajit Ray

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. perturbed (*line 8*)

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) frightened | (b) unsettled |
| (c) confused   | (d) mocked    |

2. stunted (*line 19*)

- |                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| (a) prevented from growing       |
| (b) prepared for tricks          |
| (c) prevented from taking action |
| (d) allowed to do stunts         |

- (ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word ‘expensive’? [1]

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) carefree | (b) ordinary |
| (c) cheap    | (d) haggling |

- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:
- (a) What kept Ashamanja Babu happy? [2]
  - (b) What does this tell you about him? [2]
  - (c) What is that one other thing he needed to complete his happiness? [1]
  - (d) Why did Ashamanja Babu think the man was a beggar? [2]
  - (e) Why did Ashamanja Babu forget about his oranges? [2]
- (iv) In not more than 50 words, narrate the series of events from the time the puppy was taken out of the box till it was paid for. [8]

**Question 5.**

- (i) 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:**

Next day my uncle (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a lot of time.

Answer: (0) spent

He (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (select) clothes for me, and my aunt (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (give) my face a scrub and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (groom) me. My uncle (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (follow) me about (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (utter) several pieces of advice before (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (let) me out. 'You must never scowl even if the sun (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) you in the eyes. You must try (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (look) pleasant.'

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
- (a) There's a black cat sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
  - (b) The horse jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the hedge.
  - (c) Mother goes \_\_\_\_\_ the market every day.
  - (d) Several people have climbed Mount Everest \_\_\_\_\_ recent years.

(e) I often go to school \_\_\_\_\_ my friend.

(f) I have left my keys \_\_\_\_\_ home.

(g) Instead of talking, prove your worth \_\_\_\_\_ doing something.

(h) I have not slept \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. [4]

1. The magician took pity on the mouse. He turned it into a cat.

(a) Showing pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.

(b) Taking pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.

(c) The magician turned the mouse into a cat by taking pity.

(d) Taking pity on the mouse the magician turned it into a cat.

2. This work must be completed. There is a deadline.

(a) Since this work must be completed, there is a deadline.

(b) This work must be completed because there is a deadline.

(c) This work must be completed though there is a deadline.

(d) This work must be completed when there is a deadline.

3. He fled somewhere. His pursuers could not follow him.

(a) He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.

(b) He pursued somewhere his followers could not flee.

(c) He fled somewhere when his pursuers could not follow him.

(d) He fled where his pursuers cannot follow him.

4. He began late. He finished first.

(a) He finished first and began late.

(b) He began first but finished late.

(c) Though he finished late, he began first.

(d) Though he began late, he finished first.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each. [8]

1. Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain.

*(Add a question tag)*

- (a) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, didn't they?
- (b) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, had they?
- (c) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, hadn't they?
- (d) Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, did they?

2. The children have broken the window pane.

*(Begin: The window pane .....)*

- (a) The window pane had been broken by the children.
- (b) The window pane has been broken by the children.
- (c) The window pane has not been broken by the children.
- (d) The window pane had not been broken by the children.

3. The apples are so cheap that they cannot be good.

*(Use: 'too')*

- (a) The apples are too cheap and good.
- (b) The apples are too cheap as well as good.
- (c) The apples are too good to be cheap.
- (d) The apples are too cheap to be good.

4. She is very clever and beautiful.

*(Use: 'not only')*

- (a) Not only is she very clever but also beautiful.
- (b) Not only was she beautiful and she was also clever.
- (c) Not only is she clever she was also very beautiful.
- (d) Not only was she very beautiful but is also clever.

5. I prefer a simple vanilla ice cream to fancy desserts.

*(Begin: I would rather .....)*

(a) I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream to fancy desserts.

(b) I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.

(c) I would rather prefer a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.

(d) I would rather have a vanilla ice cream than a fancy dessert.

6. He asked, “When do you intend to make the payment?”

*(Begin: He asked .....)*

(a) He asked when he did intend to make the payment.

(b) He asked when she is intending to make the payment.

(c) He asked when I intended to make the payment.

(d) He asked when they are intending to make the payment.

7. If the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.

*(Begin: Unless ....)*

(a) Unless the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.

(b) Unless Mariam does the laundry, the rain will not stop.

(c) Unless the rain stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.

(d) Unless the rain stops, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.

8. This is the best movie I have ever seen.

*(Begin: Never .....)*

(a) Never had I seen a good movie than this.

(b) Never I have seen a better movie than this.

(c) Never have I seen a better movie than this.

(d) I have never seen a good movie as this.

# EXAMINATION PAPER 2023

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*Time Allowed: 2 hrs.]*

*[Maximum Marks: 80*

---

*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**.*

---

## **Question 1.**

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

**Write a composition (300–350 words) on any one of the following: [20]**

- (i) Write an original short story in which two children and their school teacher are the main characters.
- (ii) Imagine a situation where you get an opportunity to change one thing in your school. What would it be? Why do you want to change it? How would you bring about the change.
- (iii) ‘School examinations do not test intelligence.’  
Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) You are a regular visitor to your school library. describe your library. Give details of the familiar sights. What do you see and feel as different students come in and check out the books? Why is this place so important?

- (v) 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.



**Question 2.**

**[10]**

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

**Select any one of the following:**

- (i) You have had to shift to new house recently. Write a letter to your grandmother telling her what you miss about your old house. Tell her also what you like about your new house and what you plan to do to make it comfortable for yourself.
- (ii) A certain book / chapter has been included in your syllabus. You have heard that a film version is now available. Write a letter to the Manager of a film theatre near your school, requesting that the film be shown. Tell him / her why it will be beneficial to the students.

**Question 3.**

- (i) Write a notice to be put up in your school informing the pupils of Classes IX and X about the Remedial Classes to be held after the school hours and asking them to register their names for it.

**[5]**

- (ii) Write an e-mail to the principal of a neighbouring school inviting their pupils to attend the classes if they so wish. Give all details of the classes to be held. [5]

**Question 4.**

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

That huge bell never stopped ringing. It got us out of bed, it *summoned* us for meals, it rang between class periods, it sent us unwillingly to bed.

One morning it failed to ring, or rather, there was no bell to ring. Someone had removed it, and it wasn't found till late in the afternoon.

What a glorious day! As there was no bell to rouse us, everyone got up late, and there was no morning PT. Some of us missed breakfast too. The teachers got confused and mixed up their classes. How could the school manage without it? Confusion reigned.

Of course, no one owned up. It could have meant expulsion. Some suspicion fell on the Sports Captain because of our *aversion* to morning PT, but nothing 10 could be proved.

No one was very anxious to find the bell – we were quite happy without it – but it was finally discovered hanging from a branch of one of the trees. 'It may have been Mr. Sharma,' surmised Brian. Mr. Sharma, our Maths teacher, was known to walk in his sleep. And sleepwalkers did funny things sometimes.

'It could be Mool Chand himself,' suggested Cyrus Satralkar.

Mool Chand was the school chowkidar, who also had the job of banging the brass bell at appointed times.

'Why would he throw it away?'

20

‘He must be as fed up with ringing it as we are of hearing it.’ This was my theory. ‘Perhaps he wants a rise in salary.’

The identity of the culprit remained a mystery. Happily, the senior Hockey team went on a winning spree against all corners, and our month-end exits were *restored*.

But soon there was another sensation.

A girl was admitted to our class!

The boys were scandalized. No girl had ever studied in our school before. We protested.

What’s the problem?’ asked Mr. Knight, our class master. ‘Haven’t you seen 30 a girl before?’

‘But – but. Sir ...’ Tata was our spokesman. ‘How will we concentrate on our studies?’

‘When did you ever concentrate on your studies, Tata?’

‘Are we going co-ed, sir?’ Adams wanted to know.

‘Not at all,’ said Mr. Knight. ‘This is a special case. She is the school accounts manager’s daughter, and he can’t afford the Girls school fees. So, I’m sure you’ll make her feel very welcome.’

The accountant was a popular man who also ran the school’s tuck shop and allowed most of us a certain amount of credit. All our objections faded 40 away.

At first, Sunita, our new entrant, was a bit of a distraction because, although she was very shy and demure, she had lovely curly hair, bright eyes, pink cheeks and a smile for everyone. All the boys were very polite and attentive to her and Brian in particular was always ready to help her.

— *Collection of Stories, Ruskin Bond*



- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [3]

1. summoned (line 1)

(a) totalled (b) ordered (c) requested (d) shout

2. aversion (line 10)

(a) hatred (b) fear (c) politeness (d) creation

3. restored (line 25)

(a) helped (b) returned (c) permit (d) victory

- (ii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

(a) Why did no one confess to having removed the missing bell? [1]

(b) Why did suspicion fall on the Sports Captain? [2]

(c) What made Brian think that it was Mr. Sharma? [2]

(d) Which sentence in the passage tells you that Mr. Knight thought poorly of Tata's academic performance? [2]

(e) Why was the accountant a popular man? [2]

- (iii) In not more than 50 words, describe the effects of the lost bell. [8]

### Question 5.

- (i) 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) One night four college students ..... (be) out partying late and did not study for the test scheduled for the next day.

**Answer:** were

In the morning, they, (1) ..... (think) of a plan. They (2) ..... (make) themselves look dirty with grease and dirt. Then they (3) ..... (go) to the Dean and (4) ..... (say) they (5) ..... (go) out to a wedding last night and on their way back the tyre of their car burst and they had to push the car all the way back. The Dean thought for a minute and said that they could have the re-test after three days. They (6) ..... (thank) him and said they would be ready. On the day of the test, they were made to sit in separate rooms. they agreed as they (7) ..... (prepare) well. But they (8) ..... (get) a rude shock!

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [4]

- (a) A bird ..... hand is worth two in the bush.
- (b) The boy is crazy ..... football.
- (c) She was tired ..... fighting and struggling all the time.
- (d) He opted ..... of the race.
- (e) We borrowed the bikes ..... our uncle.
- (f) The police station is ..... the right.
- (g) I looked at the stars ..... the telescope.
- (h) There was an accident ..... the crossroads.

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without** **using and, but** or **so**. Choose the correct option. [4]

- (1) He jumped up. He ran away.
  - (a) He jumped up before he ran away.
  - (b) Jumping up, he ran away.
  - (c) He ran away after jumping.
  - (d) He ran away because he jumped up.

- (2) He has failed many times. Still, he hopes to succeed.
- (a) He succeeds after he failed many times.
  - (b) Despite of failing, he hopes to succeed.
  - (c) In spite of many failures, he hopes to succeed.
  - (d) He failed many times even though he hopes to succeed.
- (3) Do not be a jeweller. Do not be a goldsmith.
- (a) Be neither a jeweller nor a goldsmith.
  - (b) Be both a jeweller and a goldsmith.
  - (c) Either be a jeweller or a goldsmith.
  - (d) Be a jeweller as well as a goldsmith.
- (4) A cottager and his wife had a hen. The hen laid an egg every day.
- (a) Every day, a hen laid an egg for a cottager and his wife.
  - (b) A cottager and his wife had a hen who laid an egg every day.
  - (c) The cottager and his wife had an egg every day because they had a hen.
  - (d) A cottager and his wife had a hen which laid an egg every day.
- (iv) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. Choose the correct options. [8]

1. He said to me, "I don't believe you."

(Begin: *He said* .....)

- (a) He said he doesn't want to believe in me.
- (b) He said that he didn't believe me.
- (c) He said that he didn't believe in me.
- (d) He said I don't believe you.

2. Some boys were helping the wounded man.

(Begin: *The wounded* .....)

- (a) The wounded man was helping some boys.
- (b) The wounded man were helping some boys.
- (c) The wounded man was being helped by some boys.
- (d) The wounded boys were helping the man.

3. He is as wise as Solomon.

(Use: 'wiser')

- (a) Solomon was wiser than he is.
- (b) He and Solomon are wiser.
- (c) Solomon was the wisest.
- (d) Solomon was not wiser than he is.

4. If the boys do not reach the school on time, they will be punished.

(Begin: *Unless* .....)

- (a) Unless the boys reach the school on time, they will not be punished.
- (b) Unless the boys are punished, they will not reach the school on time.
- (c) Unless the school punished the boys, they will not reach on time.
- (d) Unless the boys reach the school on time, they will be punished.

5. As soon as he reaches home, his friends call him.

(Begin: *Hardly* .....)

- (a) Hardly does he reach home when his friends call him.
- (b) Hardly had he reached home than his friends called him.

- (c) Hardly, he reaches home, his friends call him.
- (d) Hardly when he reaches home than his friends call him.
6. She is weak, but she is courageous.
- (Begin: *Despite* .....)
- (a) Despite of being weak she is courageous.
- (b) Despite being weak, she is courageous.
- (c) Despite being courageous, she is not weak.
- (d) Despite weak, she is courageous.
7. We will never forget what we saw.
- (Begin: *Never* .....)
- (a) Never forget what we see.
- (b) Never will we forget what we had seen.
- (c) Never will we see what we forget.
- (d) Never will we forget what we saw.
8. Jaswant's grandfather is too old to take up this job.
- (Use: .....so.....that.....)
- (a) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he could not take up this job.
- (b) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he cannot take up this job.
- (c) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he could take up this job.
- (d) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he can take up this job.

# EXAMINATION PAPER 2020

*Time Allowed: 2 hrs.]*

*[Maximum Marks: 80*

*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**.*

## Question 1.

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

**Write a composition (300–350 words) on any one of the following: [20]**

(a) Write an **original** story entitled ‘*The Secret*’.

(b) ‘*A family without pets is an incomplete family.*’

Express your views either **for** or **against** this statement.

(c) Which do you prefer—morning, afternoon, evening or night?

Describe your favourite time of the day. What are the sights, sounds, smells and feelings that you associate with your favourite time of the day? Why do you like this part of the day better than the others?

(d) Have you ever said or done something that changed the life of another person? Give an account of your words or actions that led to this change and describe how the experience made you feel.

- (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.



**Question 2.**

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

Select *any one* of the following:

[10]

- (a) You have changed your school recently. Write a letter to your friend in your old school telling him/her what you like about your new school but also what you miss about your old school.
- (b) Some taps in your locality are left open all day resulting in a tremendous waste of water. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your town/city, complaining about the problem. Suggest ways in which this waste of water can be prevented.

**Question 3.**

- (a) Your school is organising a fete/carnival to raise funds for the victims of the recent floods in your State.

Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board giving details of the event. [5]

- (b) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school, inviting him/her to send their students to attend the fete/carnival. [5]

**Question 4.**

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

Attending classes inside a railway carriage seemed unusual enough, but the seating arrangements turned out to be unusual, too. At Totto-chan's previous school each pupil was assigned a specific desk. But here they could sit anywhere they liked at any time.

The most unusual thing of all about this school, however, was the lessons themselves.

Schools normally schedule one subject, for example history, during the first period, when everyone in the class just did history; they say , arithmetic in the second period, when you just did arithmetic. But here it was quite different. At the beginning of the first period, the teacher made a list of all the 10 problems and questions in the subjects to be studied that day. Then she would say, "Now, start with any of these you like."

So, whether you started history or arithmetic or something else didn't matter at all. Someone who liked composition might be writing something, while behind you someone who liked chemistry might be boiling something in a flask over an alcohol burner.



This method of teaching enabled the teachers to observe – as the children progressed to higher grades – what they were interested in as well as their way of thinking and their character. It was an ideal way for teachers to really get to know their pupils.

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As for the pupils they loved being able to start with their favourite subject, the fact that they had all day long to cope with the subjects they disliked meant they could usually manage them somehow. So, study was mostly independent, with pupils free to go and consult the teacher whenever necessary. Then pupils would be given further exercises to work at alone. It was study in the truest sense of the word, and it meant there were no pupils just sitting inattentively while the teacher talked and explained.

The first grade pupils hadn't quite reached the stage of independent study, but even they were allowed to start any subject they wanted.

Some copied letters of the alphabet, some drew pictures, some read books, and some even did physical exercise.

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Just then the boy sitting behind her got up and walked toward the blackboard with his notebook, apparently to consult the teacher. Totto-chan stopped looking around the room and fixed her eyes on his back as he walked. The boy dragged his leg, and his whole body swayed from side to side. Totto-chan wondered at first if he was doing it on purpose, but she soon realized the boy couldn't help it.

The boy said brightly, “ My name's Yasuaki. What's yours?”

She was so glad to hear him speak that she replied loudly, “ I'm Totto-chan.”

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*Adapted from Totto-chan*

**(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. [3]**

- (i) assigned (line 3)
- (ii) ideal (line 19)
- (iii) independent (line 24)

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

- (i) What was unusual about the seating arrangement? [2]
- (ii) How did the method of teaching help the teacher? [2]
- (iii) Why did the pupils enjoy their lessons at this school? [2]
- (iv) What different things did the first grade pupils do? [2]
- (v) Which sentence in the passage tells us that the boy had difficulty in walking like other children? [1]

**(c) In not more than 50 words, describe how the children were taught. [8]**

**Question 5.**

**(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) *taught***

O By the time she was three, Matilda has (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) herself to read by (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (study) newspapers and magazines that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) around the house. At the age of four, she could (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (read) fast and well and she naturally began (4) \_\_\_\_\_

(hanker) after books. The only book in the whole of this enlightened household was something called Easy cooking (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (belong) to her mother, and when she had read this from cover to cover and had (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) all the recipes by heart, she (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) she (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (want) something more interesting.

**(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [4]**

- (i) It has been raining \_\_\_\_\_ two hours.
- (ii) He just scraped \_\_\_\_\_ his examination.
- (iii) Mrs. Kapoor was bent \_\_\_\_\_ attending the meeting.
- (iv) She is proud and looks \_\_\_\_\_ on her colleagues.
- (v) Rahul plays football \_\_\_\_\_ his grandfather.
- (vi) The mother was sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the sick child all night.
- (vii) Monica is leaning \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
- (viii) Rosie is very good \_\_\_\_\_ art and craft.

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

- (i) Sarah and Tyra are twins. They look exactly alike.
- (ii) Rohan does not like to play cricket. He does not like to play hockey either.
- (iii) Sania pushed as hard as she could. The door would not open.
- (iv) The school bus drove through the gate. The clock was striking eight at that moment.

**(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary but do not change the meaning of the sentence:** [8]

(i) The librarian orders books for the school library every year.

(Begin: Books \_\_\_\_\_)

(ii) No one will deny that the children have worked very hard this year.

(Begin: Everyone \_\_\_\_\_)

(iii) As soon as the teacher enters, she greeted by her students.

(Rewrite: No sooner \_\_\_\_\_)

(iv) She is so busy that she finds no time to entertain her friends.

(Rewrite: Using 'too'.)

(v) In spite of the very hot weather, Kevin stepped out to buy some bread.

(Begin: Despite \_\_\_\_\_)

(vi) Sheela will be selected for the competition only if she goes for the auditions.

(Begin: Unless \_\_\_\_\_)

(vii) I would rather eat fruit than a lot of unhealthy junk food.

(Begin: I prefer \_\_\_\_\_)

(viii) The tree was cut down ruthlessly.

(Begin: They \_\_\_\_\_)

# EXAMINATION PAPER 2019

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*Time Allowed: 2 hrs.]*

*[Maximum Marks: 80*

*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.*

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*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**.*

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## **Question 1.**

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

**Write a composition (300–350 words) on any one of the following:** [20]

- (a) Write an **original** short story in which two children and their Grandfather are the main characters.
- (b) *Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) must be installed in every class room.* Give your views either **for** or **against** this statement.
- (c) Your class had to conduct a Morning Assembly. Write an account of how you prepared for it, what your role was and what you gained from the experience.
- (d) Summers are becoming hotter with each passing year. Write a description of one such very hot day. What did you see and hear as you walked outside? How were birds and animals affected?
- (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.



**Question 2.**

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

**Select any one of the following:**

**[10]**

- (a) You want to start a new club in your school. Write a letter to your Principal requesting permission to start the club, explain your role in it and give reasons to prove that the club will be beneficial for the school.
- (b) Your friend has not fared well in the recent examinations. Write a letter to him / her expressing your concern. Give him / her some advice on how to score better marks and offer to help him / her to improve his / her performance.

**Question 3.**

- (a) Your school is hosting an Inter-School Quiz Competition. Write out a notice to be displayed in your school giving all details for the event. **[5]**
- (b) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him / her to send a team of three members to participate in the Quiz Competition. **[5]**

**Question 4.**

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

Billy Weaver had travelled down from London and by the time he arrived it was nine o'clock in the night and the moon was coming up.

"Excuse me," he asked a porter, "but is there a cheap hotel nearby?"

"Try The Bell Hotel," the porter answered, pointing down the road.

Billy thanked him, picked up his suitcase and set out to walk the distance to The Bell Hotel. He had never been to Richmond before. But the man at the Office had told him it was a *splendid* city.

Billy was seventeen years old. He was wearing a new navy-blue overcoat, a new brown hat, and a new brown suit, and he was feeling fine. He walked briskly down the street. He was trying to do everything briskly these days. The big shots up at the Head Office were fantastically brisk all the time. They were amazing.

The road was lonely and dark with a few scattered houses.

Suddenly, in a downstairs window Billy saw a printed notice propped up against the window glass. It said Bed and Breakfast.

He moved a bit closer and peered through the window into the room, and the first thing he saw was a bright fire burning in the hearth. On the carpet in front of the fire, a little dog was curled up asleep with its nose tucked into its belly.

The room in half-darkness was filled with pleasant furniture. There was a piano and a big sofa and several plump armchairs; and in one corner he *spotted* a large parrot in a cage. Animals were usually a good sign in a place like this, Billy told himself and it looked to him as though it would be a pretty decent house to stay in.

Then a queer thing happened to him. He was in the act of stepping back and going away from the window when he felt a strange urge to ring the bell!

He pressed the bell. He heard it ringing, and then at once the door swung open and a woman was standing there.

She gave him a warm welcoming smile.

“Please come in,” she said pleasantly. Billy found himself *automatically* moving forward into the house.

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“I saw the notice in the window,” he said, holding himself back.

“Yes, I know.”

“I was wondering about a room.”

“It’s all ready for you, my dear,” she said. She had a round pink face and very gentle blue eyes.

“How much do your charge?”

“Five dollars a night, including breakfast.”

It was fantastically cheap. He could easily afford it.

**(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.**

[3]

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| (i) splendid        | (line 7)  |
| (ii) spotted        | (line 20) |
| (iii) automatically | (line 29) |

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

- |                                                                          |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (i) How did the porter assist Billy?                                     | [2] |
| (ii) Why did Billy want to do everything briskly?                        | [2] |
| (iii) Why did Billy think animals were a good sign in a place like this? | [2] |

- (iv) Which sentence tells you that something strange happened to Billy? [2]
- (v) How much did the room cost? [1]
- (c) In not more than 50 words, give a brief account of what Billy saw as he looked through the window of the room. [8]

**Question 5.**

- (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) *roamed*

Once upon a time, in the days when genies and giants (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (roam) the land, there (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (live) a farmer (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (name) Baba Ayub. He lived with his family in a little village by the name of Maidan Sabz. Because he had a large family to feed, Baba Ayub (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (see) his days (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (consume) by hard work. Every day, he (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (labour) from dawn to sundown, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (plow) his field and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) the soil and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (tend) to his meagre pistachio trees.

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [4]

- (i) The puppy was hiding \_\_\_\_\_ the sofa.
- (ii) Stop worrying \_\_\_\_\_ your future.
- (iii) When I stepped \_\_\_\_\_ the lift, I found it had stopped working.
- (iv) We had to use a bridge to go \_\_\_\_\_ the river.
- (v) I have lived in this town \_\_\_\_\_ ten years.

(vi) Please switch \_\_\_\_\_ all lights and fans when you leave the room.

(vii) Ronnie is married \_\_\_\_\_ my cousin.

(viii) The gift came \_\_\_\_\_ a birthday card.

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

(i) He was very ill. He did not take any medicine.

(ii) You come back from your holiday. We will discuss the problem.

(iii) He remained absent on Friday. It was foolish of him.

(iv) Rahul ran all the way to the bus stop. He missed the bus.

**(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary but do not change the meaning of the sentence: [8]**

(i) The old woman said to Arun, "Can you help me to cross the street?"

(Begin: The old woman asked Arun \_\_\_\_\_)

(ii) As soon as the sun rose over the hills, the fog disappeared.

(Begin: No sooner \_\_\_\_\_)

(iii) It rained so heavily that they could not go for the picnic.

(Rewrite: Using 'too \_\_\_\_\_ to')

(iv) If your friends get here before 7 o'clock we can take them out for dinner.

(Rewrite: Using 'unless'.)

(v) The school captain was elected by the students of classes XI and XII.

(Begin: The students \_\_\_\_\_)

(vi) Greenland is the largest island in the world.

(Rewrite: Using 'larger'.)

(vii) How cruel Shylock was to demand his pound of flesh!

(Begin: It was cruel \_\_\_\_\_)

(viii) Arun was asked by his mother to explain the missing buttons on his shirt.

(Rewrite: Using 'explanation')

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