

ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SAMPLE PAPER - 1
(LANGUAGE)

Maximum Marks: 40

Time Allowed: One and a half hour

*(Candidates are allowed **additional 10 minutes** for **only** reading the paper.*

*They must **NOT** start writing during this time.)*

All questions are compulsory.

Question 1.

Write a composition in approximately 350-400 words on any one of the following subjects:

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

- (i) Do you think that the Covid-19 pandemic will force us to redefine the quest for a better use of our natural resources? Will there be a 'before' and 'after' for environmental issues? If so, how?
- (ii) You have fallen out with your friend over a small issue. Write about how and why it happened.
- (iii) Raising the petrol price is the only way to reduce traffic and pollution. Argue for or against this proposition.
- (iv) Bravery.
- (v) People feel that there is a degradation in the quality of Indian films. Express your views.
- (vi) Write an original short story on the topic "Parting is such a sweet sorrow."

Question 2.

- (i) Write a review of a stage production in about 200-250 words which you have attended recently in your city using the following guidelines:

Venue—Occasion—Reason for the performance—Cast—Costumes and Lightening / Background Music—Performance—Performers, their events—Clarity—General impression.

- (ii) Write a proposal in not more than 150 words as the head of your eco-club to an NGO about how they can act to stop a nearby factory from polluting the local lake.



Answer 1.

(i)

COVID-19 REDEFINED

"There is no well-being without Nature's well-being". These words of Prof. Miles Richardson has become all the more relevant in today's context. For years, man has been plundering his very own support system—the environment he lives in. Now, he is facing the consequences. Covid-19 pandemic has emitted shockwaves across the world, compelling all to take stock of the present situation. The realisation has dawned that unless we 'reset' our environmental behaviour, humanity is bound to suffer beyond repair. One small virus, zoonotic in nature, has held the entire world in its grip. Researchers say that this phenomenon is the result of man disturbing the natural world.

Deforestation, intensive farming, and climate change have upset the ecological balance. Habitat loss for the animals along with the impact on biodiversity, are posing unimaginable threats to human life. For example, depleting favourable environment causes the loss of large predatory animals, leaving behind bats, rats, and insects that can spread deadly infections. When they increase in number, they invade places occupied by humans. This wider animal-human interaction results in a 'virus spillover', increasing the possibilities for infection. Coronavirus is a classic example of this.

Climate change also caters to disease spread. Even a slight rise in temperature can carry insect-borne diseases to reach areas where people lack immunity to new pathogens. It is also alarming to note that so many germs lie dormant under the polar ice. A melting of this ice will bring out these sleeping pathogens, that can start a pandemic. The time has come to sharpen our quest for the root causes and solutions for the current crises.

Covid-19 has given us an opportunity to rethink about our environmental policies and the role each individual can play in ensuring sustainable living. The depletion of the earth's resources happens faster than their restoration. However, Corona attack has revealed that human societies can transform overnight and listen to the wake-up call for an innovative approach.

Restructuring our economic and social life is the need of the hour. We should use science to minimise climate change, and loss of biodiversity, thus laying a foundation for a greener world. We have to phase out fossil fuels and adopt renewable energy technologies. Secondly, there should be a paradigm shift from industry to agriculture, so that carbon emissions can be contained. As responsible citizens, we have to learn to reduce, recycle and reuse. Keeping our environment clean, rejuvenating our surroundings with more vegetation, and refraining from harming forest life can provide a new lease of existence.

Thus, a productive natural world and a stable living condition can be built, if we take care of our natural resources with a scientific bend of mind and rational approach. Yes, the clock can be set anew for a thriving post-Corona world.

(ii)

FRI-ENDSHIP

It happened last Thursday at school. My friend, Jay and I have not talked to each other since that day. Everyone I know, friends as well as teachers, are shocked that we have fallen out because we are famous as 'best friends' or 'inseparable friends'. We quarrelled over our love for the beautiful game – Football.

Jay and I are both fans of football. We watched the match together on Wednesday night. The World Cup final between Germany and Argentina was to be broadcasted on Wednesday and we decided to watch the match together. The argument began over who played better. One thing led to another and before we knew it, we walked off in a huff, separately.

When I reached home, my mother immediately understood that I was in a bad mood. She did not ask me the reason for my bad mood. She was clearly surprised as she had expected me to come back happy from Jay's house. A football match and the company of your best friend, what more can a person ask for?

The following morning, I narrated the events of the previous evening to my family even without being asked. The fight with Jay had left such a bad taste in my mouth that I was happy to get the burden off my chest. My mother made me sit down and explained that the fight was silly and trivial. My friendship with Jay was bigger than any football match in the world. Even the best of friends have their differences. But we should embrace our differences and move on. We should not let it become a reason to spoil the friendship. She said that true friends are invaluable, without whom our lives will become deserts. They are the people who stand by us through thick and thin and bring joy and happiness into our lives. They do not abandon us if our viewpoints do not match. When Arjuna was losing heart before the battle of Kurukshetra, his friend Lord Krishna gave him knowledge and wisdom to fulfil his duties. The mark of a true friend is to inspire his friends to reach for the stars.

Seven days have gone by without us talking and I'm beginning to realise the truth of my mother's words. How could we have fought over this and then ignored each other for seven days! I agree with my mother and I have realised in these few days that I value my friendship with my friend more than which team wins a match. I miss him sitting next to me in class, walking back together from school. Today, I will apologise to Jay for my behaviour. I understand that there may be a difference in our opinions, but obviously trivialities are not bigger than human relationships.

(iii) **RAISING THE PETROL PRICES IS THE ONLY WAY TO REDUCE TRAFFIC AND POLLUTION**

For the Motion

The modern world is faced with the twin problems of traffic and pollution. Many feel that increasing oil price is the only measure by which these issues can be resolved. However, I totally disagree with this proposition, as there are several other effective alternatives that can be resorted to.

First of all, increasing the price of fuel will not be an effective solution to control the ever-increasing traffic and the resulting pollution. Multiple vehicles are owned by the rich and a hike in the cost of petrol will not prevent them from using them. They will continue to use their vehicles for business as well as personal convenience. However, such a move can affect the common man, who depends on public transport to commute. This is because transport companies will raise the ticket charges, which will prove to be an economic strain to those who are already suffering from inflation. Furthermore, it can cause life to become more expensive as the price of the essential commodities will skyrocket due to transportation charges. For example, vegetables, milk, other grocery items, even drinking water will cost more. Besides, when the government of India tried to do this a few years ago, there was no notable decline in traffic congestion or air contamination.

On the contrary, if we resort to other means such as better public transport facilities, and wider and better roads and service lanes, traffic congestion can be reduced to a considerable extent. Making public conveyance more traveller-friendly by installing comfortable seats with adequate leg space, lessening overcrowding and facilitating frequent services will attract more crowd to travel by these modes. Increasing parking fees is another way to refrain the public from using their own vehicles. These steps will not only reduce the heavy traffic on roads, but also bring down the toxic smoke emission. Alternatives like electrically run cars and trains will reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, which is a major cause of environmental degradation. Strict rules ensuring the roadworthiness of engines can reduce the release of carbon. Planting trees and shrubs on roadsides as well as constructing gardens in public places is a full proof way, as they act as lungs to choked cities. Besides, practices like carpooling, running cars with specific number plates on fixed days and separate roads for heavy vehicles will go a long way in making city roads less crowded and more environment-friendly.

When we have so many alternatives to manage the heavy rush, traffic jams and air deterioration, why do we have to opt for a glaringly ineffective way of raising the fuel price? It will only unsettle the public life without any improvement in the prevailing conditions.

Against the Motion

The modern world is faced with the twin problems of traffic and pollution. Many feel that increasing oil price is the only measure by which these issues can be resolved. I totally agree with this proposition as this is the quickest and most effective way to manage these pressing issues.

The best and the only way to resolve the ever-increasing traffic problems and pollution in the environment is to increase the fuel price. First of all, people will refrain from using their own vehicles, thinking about the burden on their monthly budget. Those with multiple vehicles will opt for smaller ones that consume less petrol. They would even settle for carpooling that would definitely reduce the heavy traffic. The habit of commuting by two or four-wheelers even for short distances will see a fall. Those who possess such vehicles will become more conscious of servicing their engines to get better mileage, thus reducing the carbon emissions. In short, they will modify their behaviour in such a way that they will enjoy better savings, health and mental peace.

When it comes to macro level, higher fuel price will encourage innovating other means to save fossil fuels which are fast depleting from the face of the earth. Thus, more environment friendly options will be manufactured. Solar energy will get a new boost which is pollution-free. New biomaterials such as Switchgrass will lead to less expensive fuel that can be used for domestic purpose also. More importantly, metro trains, monorails, and other electric vehicles will become the new norm, thus automatically reducing the heavy rush on roads and air contamination. Further, individual states can levy higher tax on petro companies as taxes are imposed at the base level of price by the litre. This

added earning, in turn, can be used to improve the infrastructure that will hugely benefit the travellers. There may be a counter-argument that there are other ways to mitigate the heavy burden on roads and environmental damages and I do concede to it to a certain limit. This is due to the fact that they are long-term measures to tackle the immediate concerns. Let them take their own course, but the need of the hour is expedited action and this is possible by straightaway increasing the petrol price.

Considering all the arguments above, I strongly feel that a higher oil price would ultimately pave the way for greener, and more efficient method of managing the twin issues that will benefit society in a huge way.

(iv)

BRAVERY

There are so many qualities that are appreciated in a man. Bravery is one such quality that is much appreciated and desired. They say, “only the bravest deserve the fairest”. It is also said that, ‘fortune favours the brave’. This means that only people who are willing and brave enough to try new things, are rewarded by success. It is important for everyone to show the strength and the courage to strive for new things.

A nation never forgets its brave sons or daughters. This is especially a truth for India, as thousands of freedom fighters have striven to make our country free from the shackles of the British rule. If they did not have the courage to take on the mighty British empire, we would still have been living a life of servility in our own country. India will forever be indebted to its brave freedom fighter sons and daughters. If not for the bravery of the soldiers of the freedom movement, we would never have been able to inspire our children with their tales of bravery and sacrifice.

Bravery should not be mistaken with physical strength. Gandhiji is an apt example of a brave person, who, without any weapons, fought against the British Empire. Being brave is being a righteous person. One need not be only a hero and wait for grand struggles to show their bravery, rather one can assert his or her bravery in the day-to-day life. To own one’s wrong deeds to save someone from a difficult situation and to raise a voice against exploitation—all are acts of bravery.

The brave are respected and recognised everywhere. They are leaders. They are the ones who have the courage to go against time and tide. It may be difficult for all the people to perform great feats, but everyone can be brave in their day-to-day lives. It is important to raise one’s voice to protest against injustice. It is important to speak up against practices that take away human rights. And all this takes courage. Only if, all of us are brave enough to practise this in our daily lives, can we hope to make India a truly great nation. It may not help us to be remembered or to find a place in the pages of history books, but it will give us the joy and satisfaction of having done the right thing. Doing what is right is what bravery is all about.

(v)

DEGRADATION IN INDIAN FILMS

In the modern age, the cinema is the cheapest and the most popular source of entertainment. On account of its widespread popularity, it has become a strong rival to the theatre, which is patronised only by the cultured few. The stage cannot compete with the screen in the presentation of scenic beauty, and this is one of the important causes of the immense popularity of the cinema. The forest, teeming with wild animals, tempestuous and billowy oceans and snow-covered mountains, can all be presented with marvellous effects on the screen, which the theatre cannot show.

Everyone can easily acknowledge the fact that cinema with its immense popularity is bound to influence the life of the common people who are its patrons. It strives to cater to their taste, which is not of a high order. But on the other hand, films of a high order are above the taste of the common cinema-goers who, therefore, fail to relish them. Since films abounding in songs and dance have a long run, the film producers introduce dances and songs in almost every film, no matter whether their introduction is artistically appropriate or not.

The main object of the film producers is to earn money, they strive to make their films popular by catering to the existing taste of the people. In many films, certain emotions are incorrectly depicted in an endeavour to reach a certain age group, which young boys and girls with immature minds fail

to appreciate. The moral value of adventure films, detective films, romantic films, social and religious films—all are dealt with one and the same commercial objective.

Films on crime are the worst kinds of films, which exert an unhealthy influence on young minds. Such films have heroes who are criminals, robbers, dacoits, thieves, smugglers and murderers. The hero may or may not be a bad man but his adventures do create a desire in young minds to emulate. The crime films provoke a tendency to commit crime, though the conscious purpose of such films may be entirely different. One of the several purposes of such films is to prove that people are the victims of society and circumstances and they are more sinned against than sinning.

The films teach boys and girls that outer beauty is everything and expensive dresses are the only ways to look good. Young boys and girls love to dress like film stars. Not only that, they also strive to copy their manners and style of speech. As a result, their parents suffer because of their never ending desires and demands. Artificiality of manners and speech is the most terrible gift of the cinema to our young ones.

Cinema songs have become extremely popular with all the sections of our society. They are sung even by small children on the streets. They have given a setback to classical music. Up to 1960, classical music was more popular in the country than it is today. Today, very few people appreciate classical music. This too, is an unhealthy influence that cinema has exerted on the taste of the people. Cinema music is a queer combination of Western and Indian music and our traditional art forms are almost on the verge of extinction.

Cinema influences our life but, unfortunately, our film producers mostly produce films that lay undue influence on passion and love. It is wrong to base all the plots on such emotions. It would indicate a paucity of imagination. Then there are films based on violence, horror, cheating and smuggling which too have become favourite themes of today's Indian films. Commercial purposes also influence the production of films. But commercial interests must go together with a genuine sense of national feelings.

(vi)

PARTING—A SWEET SORROW

Amit was born in the loving arms of his family. He was a child who everyone knew would be loved, nurtured and cherished. His parents doted on him and tried their best to look after him and bestow all the comforts of life on him.

However, one day, a terrible thing happened. Amit fell off a tree near his house when he was playing and broke his right leg. He was just a child of five years and the pain made him unconscious. Amit's parents rushed him to the nearest hospital where the doctors took care of him. They asked his parents to keep him there for seven days. When Amit opened his eyes in the hospital, he wanted to go home. He did not like the environment of the hospital. He did not have any friends there. He missed his room, his toys and books too.

After Amit spending three days on the hospital bed, the doctors gave him permission to walk carefully and he went to visit the child that he had heard the nurses speaking about.

The three-year-old child was a destitute orphan. Very soon, Amit made friends with the boy whose name was Jagan. The two lonely boys became best friends. Time passed well for Amit and soon seven days were over and it was time for him to go home. But both the boys were in tears to be separated from each other. Amit's parents spoke to the hospital authorities and asked them if they could take Jagan home with them as they had decided to adopt him and bring him up as their son.

That is how Jagan came to live in Amit's home and the two boys grew up together as siblings, sharing not only toys and books but also joys and sorrows. Amit's parents left no stone unturned to give the boys a good education and at the age of eighteen, Jagan cracked the medical entrance examination. It was time for him to pack up and leave Amit's home to follow his dream. On one hand, both the boys were upset that they would be parted from each other. They had grown close and valued each other's company. On the other hand, they were also happy about Jagan being able to achieve his dream. Amit knew that parting with Jagan would be sweet sorrow because sad as it made him, it also gave him immense joy to know that Jagan would be gone to chase his dream. He knew that his sorrow would be tinged with sweetness because a bond of love never breaks as it is very strong.

Answer 2.

(i)

ALADDIN, AMSTERDAM THEATRE

My long wait finally came to an end on Thursday night, when my uncle got us tickets to the new Amsterdam Theatre. This was our first trip to the US and we started by visiting my uncle in New York City. My brother and I were very excited to get tickets to a Broadway show! It was a production based on the story of Aladdin that brought characters to life. The play was directed by Tony, an award winning director who had made a bold move by assembling an entirely new cast and crew.

In preparation to visit the grand show, we dressed and got ready to drive down to the theatre. As we entered, we were thrilled to find that we had excellent seats in the plush, carpeted hall. And then the show began! It was a production based on the story of Aladdin that brought the characters to life. It taught us a lot about Arabic culture and their way of life that we did not know earlier. The aesthetic costumes, the glittering gold jewellery and the props took our breath away. My brother and I cheered throughout the show. It was really a treat to our eyes.

The characters of the show were surprising and mystical. The lighting was complimenting the mood of the scenes as Aladdin went into the cave, the subsequent finding of the Jennie and the props used, added to the beauty of the classic story.

The actor playing the little boy Aladdin—Jack Taylor was exceptional! But the actor, who played Jennie— Arthur Russell, was a true find. He sang and danced his way into the heart of the audience. The presentation was grand, the props were larger than life and the music and dance impressed us beyond measure. The dance was perfectly coordinated and we wondered about the hours of practice that the performers must have put in to execute such an excellent show without any flaw, on the stage. The use of lighting was brilliant and marvelled the spectators.

Finally, when the show came to an end, we streamed out of the theatre but the memory of the performance was etched in our minds. When our uncle asked us how well we enjoyed it, we answered in unison that we witnessed something that would become a truly memorable experience.

(ii)

PROPOSAL FOR CURBING POLLUTION IN THE LOCAL LAKE

To encourage all parties concerned to act on curbing the pollution in the local lake and stop the harm to the ecosystem being caused by a nearby factory.

- To start a “clean the lake” campaign where we will offer our services to tidy the surroundings of the lake.
- Enlist the help of the fisheries department to clean the lake and release some fishes into it. Petition the municipality to beautify the area around the lake.
- Funds will be raised through a carnival at our school to cover the expenses.
- Plantation of saplings to be carried out along and near the lake.
- A discussion session will be organised for the gathering to spread awareness about environmental concerns.

I am looking forward to your acceptance of this proposal, so that together we can do our bit for the environment.

□□