

ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SAMPLE PAPER - 3
(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) Write about an important event. Describe in detail how the event happened and how it affected you.
- (ii) While cleaning your cupboard, you come across an old photo album that reminds you of your past. Narrate some memories which shuffled through your brain.
- (iii) "Billions of dollars are spent every year by the world's space agencies; this money does not bring us any direct benefit. Instead, we should pull the plug and spend it elsewhere." Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) Advertisements.
- (v) "Time management is the important factor to achieve our goal." Reflect on how a person can manage time effectively.
- (vi) Write an original short story based on the following couplet:
"The other night, from cares exempt,
I slept and what d' you think I dreamt?"

Question 2.

- (i) Write a review in about 200-250 words of the last book you have read. Include information on the title of the book, the author and the genre. Describe the plot briefly without giving the ending away. Comment on the author's style and treatment of the subject. Add your opinion about the book and whether you will recommend it to others.
- (ii) Write a proposal in not more than 150 words for opening an environment club in the school and invite students to participate in it.



Answer 1.

(i)

A LOSS AND A REALISATION

I lost my father while I was still a student in college. He expired after thirteen days of illness. His sudden and untimely death left a void in our family, which seems very fresh in my memory.

We were four siblings and our eldest brother was the only earning member. Overnight, he was handed the responsibility to feed a family of five including our mother. But he was a brave man who never let any of us feel the absence of our father. I am thankful to him for allowing me to complete my graduation before I could think of taking up a job to ease some of his pressure and share part of the family responsibilities.

But an event that happened in college changed my outlook towards life. After the Shraddh ceremony was over, I resumed my classes. After about a week or so, I was informed that the Principal would like to meet me personally. During my two years in college, I have never had any occasion to meet the Principal in person, except for the assembly or other occasions.

Dr. Sarup Singh, our Principal, was a towering personality. He wore thick glasses and was always dressed in a formal suit complete with a tie. He had done his Masters in English Literature from Cambridge University. Students and junior teachers would purposely avoid the corridor where the Principal's room was.

On the appointed day, I went to the office and the head clerk took me into his room. Dr. Singh was seated behind a huge table in a tastefully decorated office with a couple of telephones on it. The moment we entered, he got up from his chair and welcomed me with open arms and asked me to sit down. He thanked the head clerk and then left the room. First of all, he offered his condolences on the passing away of my father. He then enquired about my family—how many members we were, what my father did, what was the current source of income and everything important. Finally, he came up with a suggestion by way of assistance. He proposed to waiver off my fee for the remainder of the course which was a little over a year. He said, it was only a suggestion and I should discuss the matter with my mother and elder brother, who were my guardians. That was a Saturday and I told him that I shall report back to him first thing on Monday morning. He noted down in his diary that we shall meet again on Monday. As I took his leave, he gave me an envelope and asked me to open it before leaving the room. I opened the envelope to find a condolence message that the college authorities had passed, mourning the death of my father.

It was a gesture that brought tears to my eyes. Such were the teachers in our time, who cared even for an average student like me in a college where hundreds were studying. Of course, my guardians agreed to his offer. My outlook for life changed forever and I became a changed person thereafter.

(ii)

A BUNCH OF MEMORIES

Time, the most powerful element in life, flies with the blink of an eye. Its beauty lies in its constant forward movement.

One day, while keeping the old books in a box, I found a very old photo album. Curiosity made me turn over the leaves. Memories flashed across my mind as I came across the first photo of myself as a little baby. Nostalgia took me to the depths of past. In the next photograph, my mother was giving me a bath and I, as a little kid, was crying. Then came the family photograph. I, very neatly dressed up, was beaming in my mother's arms. My grandfather, grandmother and uncles also stood there in the photograph. It was like touching the times gone by. I was surprised to see how young and pretty my mother used to be and how small I was! Many memorable moments of various festivals had been caught in the eye of the camera. I saw my childhood once again through photographs. At last, came the wedding photo of my parents. I could not believe my eyes when I saw my parents looking so young and beautiful. Though time affects physically, my parents have grown loving, more caring and considerate through the years.

I kept flipping through the pages and saw my entire life preserved beautifully in these pictures. I saw the photo I remember my mother took on the first day when I rode my bicycle alone. My school functions, sports days, convocation, everything was there. There were pictures of my sister too. My parents have carefully preserved all the special moments of their lives and of growing-up years. On the last page, I saw pictures of my grandparents, yellowed with age. My father's parents, I never knew as both of them had passed away when I was a baby. My only association with them was through this photo and through the stories my father told me about them. I saw the picture of my mother's parents and realised that she also enjoys looking at these pictures, as her parents are no more. Even though time moves on, we preserve some moments within our hearts and some more are captured on film, frozen forever in time.

When I closed the album, it was as if a dream was snapped. I was back again, amidst the dusty old books. So much had changed! I took a deep breath and busied myself once again in keeping those books in the box. Time, the most powerful element in life, flies with the blink of an eye. Its beauty lies in its constant forward movement.

(iii) **DOLLARS SPENT BY SPACE AGENCIES DO NOT BRING US ANY DIRECT BENEFIT**

For the Motion

Do we ever wonder begin with how much money is devoted to space exploration? Hundreds of billions! They are paid through grants and funding to and from government agencies. Space research programmes are straining the government budget, jeopardising essential and more pertinent issues like education and healthcare which affect a majority of the population, especially in developing countries. Many accidents and problems took place in space. That require seven times more money to fix those problems, along with creating a loss to qualified space scientist or increasing the level of severity of pollution by debris of space garbage if fallen on earth.

Dedication could be focused on ending famine or developing the poor/underdeveloped countries. It could be used to increase the efforts to combat terminal illness or to battle pollution which is risking man's existence today.

It's our moral responsibility to preserve and beautify the Earth first. Poor literacy rates, unemployment due to lack of proper vocational training, poverty, homelessness in masses, crime control, law, and justice departments need more attention.

When many people starve every day and lots of people are deprived of basic amenities, space research seems a luxury we can't afford. The government resources should be spent on something as basic and important as employable education. Maximum countries still lack the basic medical infrastructure. Governments should prioritise medical research making healthcare accessible and far-reaching.

To conclude, though some think that space programs are essential for the advancement of science and technologies, a multitude of basic problems like education, and healthcare should be given a paramount importance. The budget devoted to space exploration is a wild dream, it is better to spend these amounts to relieve poverty in the world. Medical researchers should be encouraged to create cheaper medical facilities for people in general or medicines for almost incurable diseases. In addition, we have to explore our planet and solve its problems before thinking about space invasion.

Against the Motion

There has been a strong advocacy of the argument that exploring space is a waste of money and that there are more urgent needs to be addressed on Earth, like improving literacy rates, reducing poverty, preventing environmental destruction and improving law and order. However, I completely disagree with this opinion for the following reasons:

In the first place, we depend on satellite technology for broadcasting and weather forecasting. Without satellites, we would not be able to follow global weather mishaps and then we won't be able to warn people of approaching storms or likewise.

We cannot foresee the distant future, so we ought to develop the capability to escape from the earth. Gradually, we are learning how humans can survive for long periods in space and even travel to other planets in the future. If space exploration is halted, this valuable knowledge will never be acquired. Researches in space and its discoveries help us to develop such devices or technologies to preserve, improve and predict the level of destruction in the environment globally and also its effect on human survival.

Another reason is that as far the eradication of poverty or improving literacy is concerned, it can be witnessed that the use of the internet helps to create awareness among the masses towards their moral duty to help the needy people in getting literate or getting rid of poverty.

The government makes policies for improving law and order or solving other issues of society with the help of digitalisation, which again is a contribution of space researches.

In conclusion, it can be safely asserted that though we face many serious problems on our planet, it is imperative that we continue to explore space. This will promote further technological advances. It will definitely provide a possible means to sort out these problems and make our earth a better and prosperous place for all its inhabitants. Ideally, all nations should cooperate for the advancement of space research.

(iv)

ADVERTISEMENTS

Television, cinema halls, radios, newspapers, magazines, tabloids are all agents of advertisements. 'Ads', as they are popularly called, dominate these mediums to a very large extent and we the consumers often see, read, and hear them and are sometimes unaware of the effect they have on us. However, they influence and mould our lives to a very large extent.

Advertisements are basically messages, bearing information on a certain product, company or person. They are designed and created in a very interesting and exciting manner. They manage to deliver the required information to the consumer on television, cinema and radio in the most interesting way possible. They may take the form of dialogues, a mini-play, or simple announcements. In magazines, tabloids and newspapers, though their scope is limited, the stress is on an attractive splash of colour and information literature.

The positive effect of the advertisement is that the consumer becomes more knowledgeable about the available goods in the market. He can compare them from a distance. If he is in a problem as to which particular brand of good to buy, for example, a television, he can make an easy choice from the numerous advertisements at his disposal. He can see or read the different features of each brand of television. He will become aware of the discounts, the gifts given with some brands and the schemes which offer purchase on easy installment schemes.

Advertisements are also a boon for the producer. They give his product unlimited publicity. He can easily get his message passed across to thousands of people. He has to pay for them but the ads bring him rich profits. What he pays is a source of the much needed revenue. Thus, advertisements contribute to the country's economy too.

All that glitters is not gold. This is what the consumer must be wary about. The producer has to sell his product and he will therefore tempt the consumer by the outside package, that is the advertisement.

More often than not, the information given out in the ads is misleading. It is not false, but is phrased or presented in such a way that it gives the consumer the wrong message. For instance, an ad given by a jeans showroom may proclaim that they are giving attractive gifts with a purchase of a pair of jeans. The customer happily rushes to the showroom, only to find that the jeans he has to buy should be of a range that is highly-priced. Similarly, several cosmetic products may advertise wonderful solutions and once the customer has used them and he sees no result he just does not know whom to blame.

The second negative aspect is the spending of money where it was not intended originally. Hapless customers cannot resist the temptations from these ads and spend money that is out of their budget on things that are not really needed. These days, there are ads offering gifts and discounts and the customer is happy that he has profited. The truth is that he has bought something which he did not want or need, just for the lure of discounts and gifts.

Ads promote a culture of consumerism where people want to buy more and more. Money culture begins to rule because everyone wants that new product that has just been launched. Ads are guilty of duping consumers.

(v)

TIME MANAGEMENT BRINGS SUCCESS

Too many people today spend too much of their time in frenzied activities, but at the end of it, achieve far less of the desired results, because they are just not concentrating on the right things.

Whether in work or academic activities, we need to consider seriously when deciding if a task is to be taken or not. What is its value? Where does it take us? Are we wasting our time and energy? Is it really worth it?

The next step would be to actually analyse how exactly we spend our time. We may receive a rude awakening as to the amount of time that we waste. Therefore, we shouldn't commit to memories the day spent because we forget too easily. Instead, we should keep a record, put this record to positive use, try to identify our energy levels throughout the day and also our effectiveness and productivity at different times. We could discover certain times are strikingly better than others. This will help us understand how to spend our time and when we perform best.

Next, we should proceed to jot down all the activities we do. We should note how we feel. Do we feel alert, tired, energetic? What is our response to certain activities? This observation will give us the opportunity to experiment and vary our activities, reschedule our rest breaks and select more value-based tasks, eliminating and rejecting the time-wasting or lesser productive jobs. We can finish our most important assignments at the time of day we feel is the most effective for us. So, I would say we need to know really what we can achieve, make the best use of the time available, do what is absolutely necessary, leave time for unexpected pressures, never take on, or as we say never bite off more than we can chew! That would be a fairly good guideline.

We should plan our day, plan our week and if possible plan our month. Once our thoughts are organised, we will find it easier to execute our plans. A 'To-do' list can help us sort out our works according to priority.

Even though we are speaking about time management, it is acceptable that planning cannot be so minute that it does not allow for interruptions, disturbance or demands. There has to be space and for this, a flexibility to adapt to circumstances, as and when they may arise, should be provided. It is an important exercise to review our goals, using our own discretionary choices keeping our limitations in mind which will permit us to manage our time well. A well-thought-out schedule will make our day surprisingly easy. We should also not forget our time for relaxation.

So, I would conclude on this note that time management definitely contributes to achievement.

(vi)

DREAM/REALITY

The other night, from cares exempt I slept and what do you think I dreamt. I am in the habit of watching television just before I fall asleep. It was the same routine that I followed one Saturday evening. I had been watching Discovery Channel when sleep overcame me and I just had the mind enough to switch off the television.

After a few hours, I sensed some commotion in my room and in a few minutes I was wide awake. To my utter shock, I realised that I was not in my room. Instead, I was lying on a magnificent bed and the walls of the chamber where I lay was covered, with beautiful paintings. In fact, I remembered vividly that I had seen them in my history book when we were reading about Art in the eighteenth century. Then, I focused on the people in the room. They were six strong-built men all dressed in red coloured tunics and black trousers which were quite loose. When they saw me awake, two of them came and helped me off the bed. After a wash up, I was led to a table on which were the dishes I love. There was a jug of hot milk, sandwiches, grapes, mangoes, cakes and strange-looking sweets. The men gestured to me that I should begin my feast. Suddenly, feeling ravenous, I attacked the dishes with enthusiasm and for the next half hour I paid attention only to my taste buds.

The empty dishes were then removed and the men walked away. I sat quietly, wondering what, or who would come next. My waiting period was not long. The most beautiful looking woman glided in. She was dressed in a dazzling gown of gold and silver. She was wearing a crown. She smiled at me and asked me in perfect English, "I hope you have enjoyed our hospitality." "Oh!", I replied instantly, "You speak my language? Well, where am I, what is happening?" The woman laughed, "One question at a time, please. First of all, you are to address me as the Queen. Secondly, everyone in my palace can speak English and you are in the Shobe desert. 'I have never heard of this desert.' I protested, "and you haven't told me why I have been brought here from my bedroom in India."

The Queen's smile was gone. There was anger in her eyes, "If you don't address me as the Queen, I'll have you beheaded. As for you, you have been brought here to serve the king. He is the formal head here, though I make every decision." This time, I was more careful. "Your majesty, May I please know, why I of all the Indian male population was brought here and secondly, if I have to serve, then why was I given such royal treatment and you might as well tell me how did all your attendants break those security locks of our house?" The Queen looked at me with contempt, "You are strong and well built, quite suitable for labour. As for the royal treatment, you were a guest when you came". She then sneered, "Your security locks were snapped open by my strong men. Now, enough of this talk. Get to

work. You will start by cleaning the land outside the palace. Further instructions will be written on the palace gate every morning. "Why written, your majesty", I countered, ever inquisitive. "Because", the Queen replied with a deadly smile, "the dishes you ate so hungrily were laced with some herbs which will permanently impair your hearing power. Incidentally, the king and the other men cannot hear too. Which is why they have no option but to obey my commands." With a swish of her gown the Queen was gone. I screamed madly, "Your majesty, wait, wait..."

Suddenly, I heard a very loud thump and then a strong tug on my shoulders. I blinked and saw that I was in my own room, and the thump was the sound of me falling down from the bed. My father was desperately trying to wake me. I felt scared and shaken. However, I swear that since that dream my hearing power has been somewhat affected!

Answer 2.

(i)

**S. B. WHITE'S, THE NEBULA CHRONICLES
AN UNEXPECTED, EXTRATERRESTRIAL ADVENTURE**

A lightweight sci-fi adventure, S. B. White's, The Nebula Chronicles, is the story of Mary Jane, an ordinary twelve-year-old girl, who was shattered to hear about the demise of her mother in a car crash. Subsequently, her life turns around when she discovers that she was an alien royalty, who was brought up on Earth anonymously and she must enroll in a special academy that trains students for galactic missions and that her life had been a fabrication all along.

She encounters a new universe of heroism and jeopardy. She is a young extraterrestrial of royal blood named Arris, who was sent into protective exile with another family as an infant. Now, that mysterious drones had located her hiding place, Arris teleports to her true destiny in outer space, attending the Nebula Academy, where she meets galactic heroes - Spider and Catella. The institution trains youth from various planets to be a team called 'Protectors' or cosmic troubleshooters, answering calls for help from all over the galaxy. Arris and her squad go through assorted simulated exercises to learn how to implement and execute justice and rule of law, preferably without resorting to undue violence or chaos. When spies invade the Nebula Academy, looking for Arris, the student heroes jump into real-life action. The author, S. B. White, brings forth fantasy through some energetic approach. The book is appealing to the young minds and is filled with a thrill-ride along with eccentric creatures, robots and exotic galactic culture. The storyline is really enjoyable and the imagery portrayed by the author is really praiseworthy. I personally found the book exceptionally pleasing and I would recommend that others try it as well.

(ii)

PROPOSAL FOR AN ENVIRONMENT CLUB

To spread awareness regarding ecological imbalances and how we can curb the damage to the environment at home and school.

As an aware member of the student council, I want to form a club to help spread the message of conservation of the environment as far as possible.

- To start a "clean air" campaign where we will encourage students to come by bicycles to school.
- Enlist the help of other school students and arrange monthly marches for various environmental causes.
- Have weekly meetings and discuss ways to curb wastage of water in the school and our homes.
- Talk to the teachers and organise competitions to spread awareness.
- Visit the nearby markets and put up street plays to educate people on the harms caused by the use of polythene bags.
- Raise funds through fete or benefits and use them to plant trees around the school area.

I am looking forward to students joining the club, so that together we can do our bit for the environment.

