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Class 10

**English  
Language**

**2023 - 2026**



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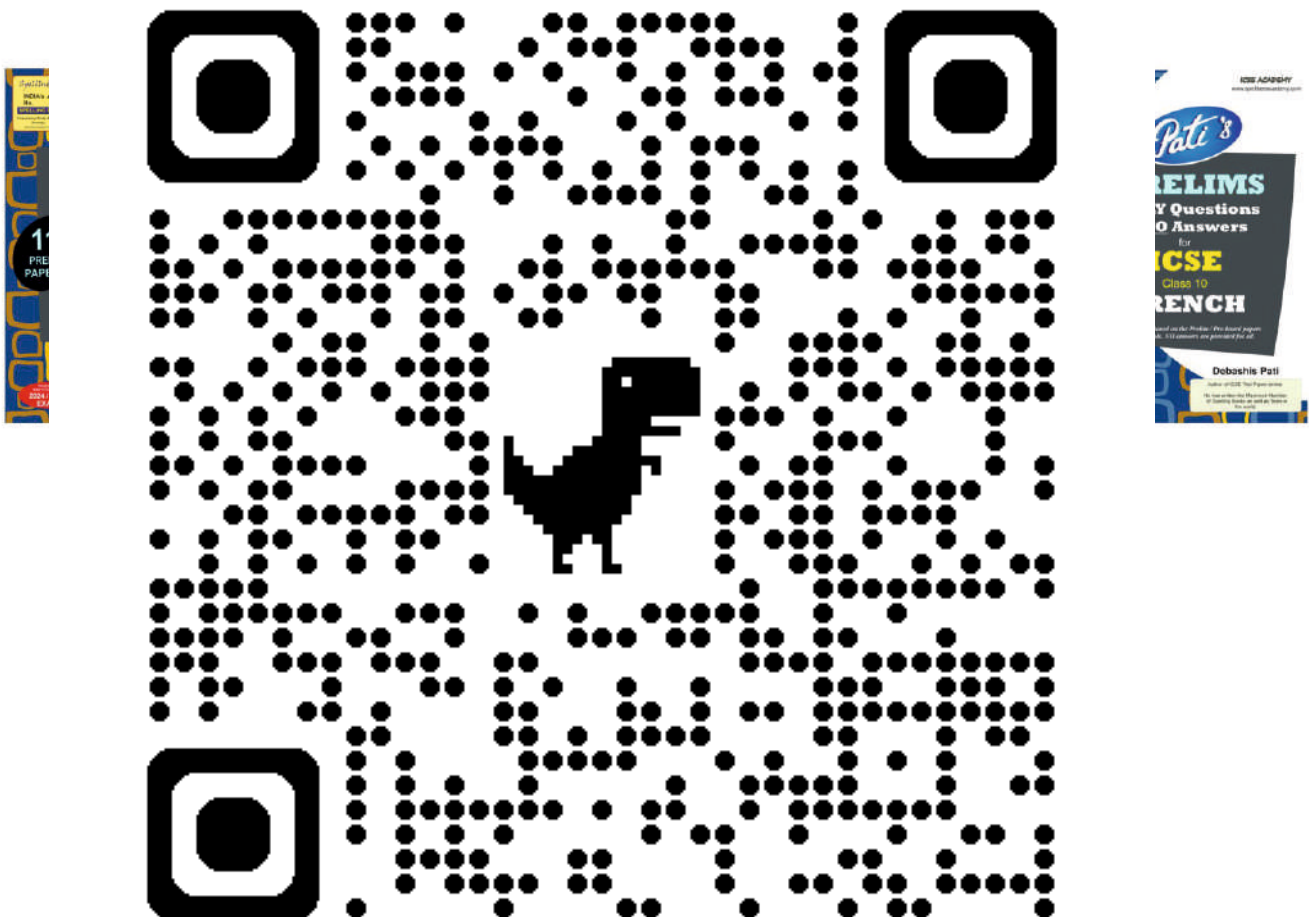
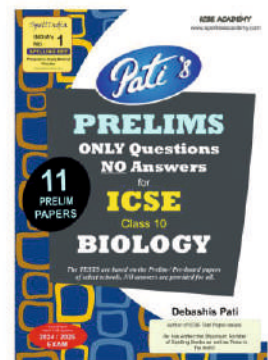
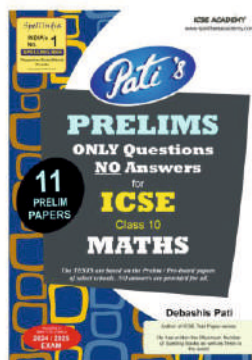
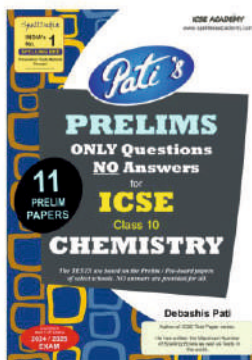
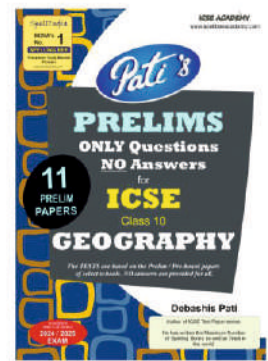
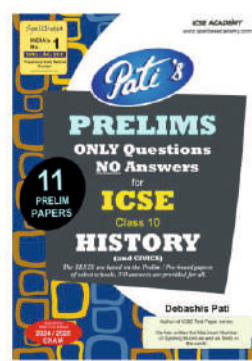
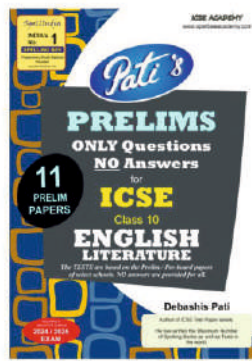
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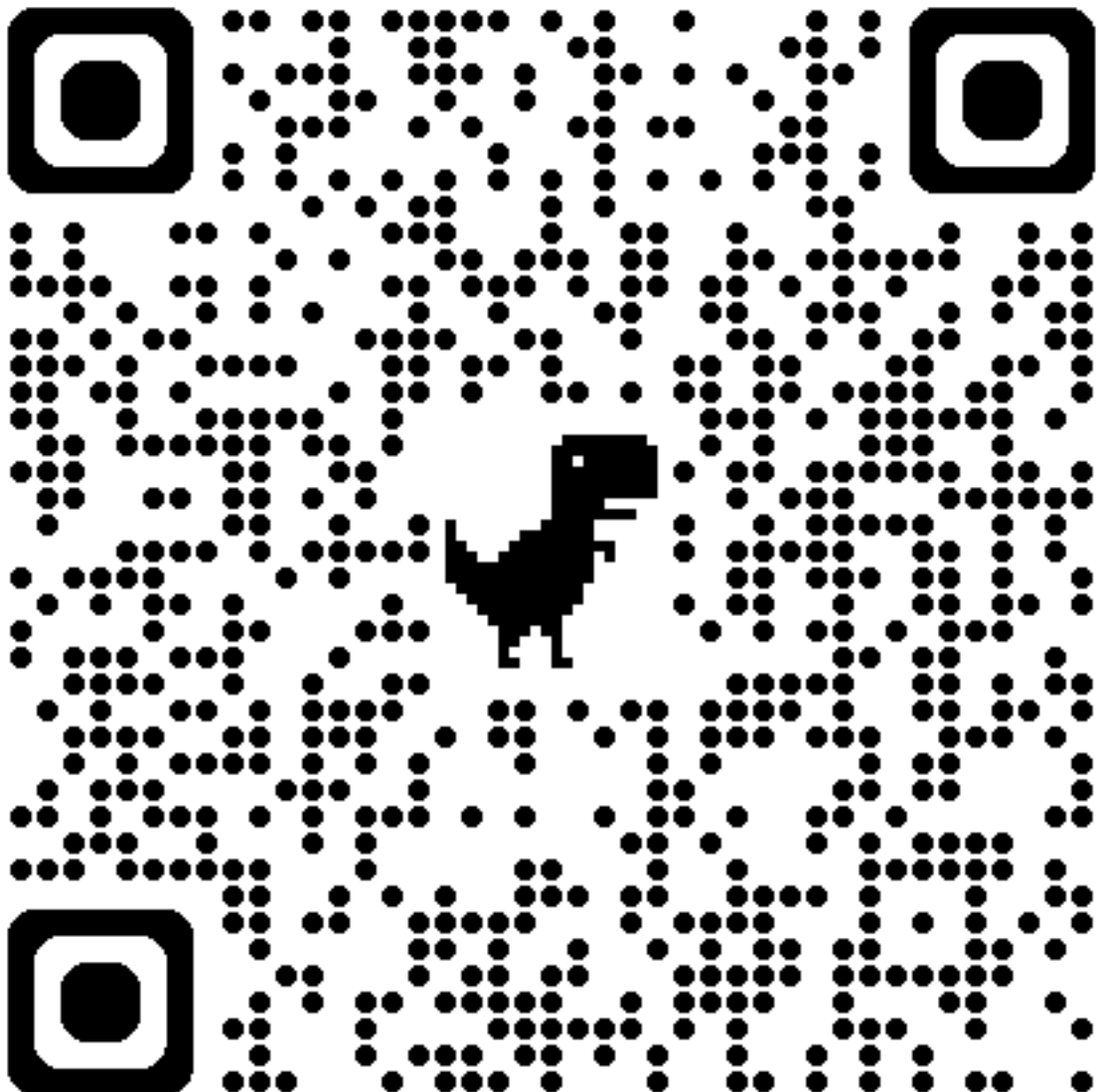


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# Specimen Papers

- 2026



## **ICSE 2026 EXAMINATION**

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER – 1)**

### **SPECIMEN QUESTIONS**

#### **1. LETTER WRITING**

#### **2. NOTICE AND EMAIL WRITING**

**SUGGESTED FORMATS FOR LETTER WRITING AND**

**NOTICE & EMAIL**

This document contains the recommended formats to be followed for the **ICSE English Language Paper I**: Any one format may be followed, all are acceptable.

1. Informal/Friendly Letter
2. Formal Letter
3. (i) Notice  
(ii) Email

**Question 2**

**(i) INFORMAL/FRIENDLY LETTER**

You have been selected as School Captain. Write a letter to your parents who live abroad telling them how you felt when you heard the news, why you think you have been selected and what your plans are for the coming year.

**Format 1**

26, Sunny Apartments,  
Shanti Nagar,  
Raipur – 492 601.  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

My dear Mother and Father,

I have some wonderful news for you! I have been waiting for a long time to tell you this. Yesterday at morning assembly the Principal announced the names of the members of the Student Council. My name was announced as School Captain. I was so thrilled and proud to hear my name. I think I have been selected because I have been a very responsible student all through my school life and I have been fairly good at academics.

This year I plan to organise a better Teachers' Day Programme. I also want to help those schoolmates who are either struggling with academics or getting bullied by the senior students. I would like to set up a cell to help these children.

The Investiture will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. I do hope you will be able to attend this important function. Looking forward to seeing you there.

With love,  
Yours affectionately,  
Riya

**Format 2**

26, Sunny Apartments,  
Shanti Nagar,  
Raipur – 492 601.

16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

My dear Mother and Father,

I have some wonderful news for you! I have been waiting for a long time to tell you this. Yesterday at morning assembly the Principal announced the names of the members of the Student Council. My name was announced as School Captain. I was so thrilled and proud to hear my name. I think I have been selected because I have been a very responsible student all through my school life and I have been fairly good at academics.

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With love,

Yours affectionately,

Riya

**Format 3**

26, Sunny Apartments,  
Shanti Nagar,  
Raipur – 492 601.

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.

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Riya

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Raipur – 492 601.

16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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The Investiture will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. I do hope you will be able to attend this important function. Looking forward to seeing you there.

With love,  
Yours affectionately,  
Riya

**Question 2**

**(ii) FORMAL LETTER**

The garbage in your locality has not been cleared for several days. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your town/city complaining about the problem and offering suggestions for improvement.

**Format 1**

Purba Putiary,  
Bansdroni,  
Kolkata – 700 104.  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The Municipal Commissioner,  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation,  
Thakurpukur,  
Kolkata – 700 126.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on a matter of serious concern. I am a resident of ward 63, E Block, Bansdroni. The garbage vats in our locality have not been cleared for several days.

The entire area is dirty and infested with flies, mosquitoes, rats and other pests. As a result people in our neighbourhood often suffer from serious illnesses. The stench of rotting garbage is also unbearable.

I would like to suggest that the garbage be cleared on a regular basis. The area should be sprayed and sanitised thoroughly.

I look forward to your cooperation in this matter.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,  
Miriam Jaffry

**Format 2**

Purba Putiary,  
Bansdroni,  
Kolkata – 700 104.

16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The Municipal Commissioner,  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation,  
Thakurpukur,  
Kolkata – 700 126.

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Thanking you,  
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**Format 3**

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Kolkata – 700 104.

16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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Yours faithfully,  
Miriam Jaffry

**Format 4**

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Bansdroni,  
Kolkata – 700 104.

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.

The Municipal Commissioner,  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation,  
Thakurpukur,  
Kolkata – 700 126.

Dear Sir,

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I look forward to your cooperation in this matter.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,  
Miriam Jaffry

**Question 3**

**(i) NOTICE**

Your school is conducting an Inter House Poetry Writing Festival. Write a notice for the school notice board informing students about the event.

**(ii) EMAIL**

Write an email to an eminent poet inviting him/her to inaugurate the event.

**Format 1**

**(i)**

Words Worth!

Annual Inter House Poetry Writing Festival

on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon

at Millennium Auditorium, Bright Academy

Pupils from Classes IX to XII who wish to participate must register their names with the Vice Principal on or before 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**(ii) joygoswami@gmail.com**

Annual Inter House Poetry Writing Festival

Dear Sir,

Our school is hosting an Inter House Poetry Writing Festival to celebrate our Golden Jubilee. We would be honoured if you would be our Chief Guest for the occasion and inaugurate the festival.

The festival will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Millennium Auditorium of our school, Bright Academy. Pupils from Classes IX to XII will be participating.

We look forward to your presence with us. A line in confirmation would be much appreciated.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Mahinderpal Singh

**Format 2**

(i)

Words Worth!

Annual Inter House Poetry Writing Festival

30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Millennium Auditorium, Bright Academy

Pupils from Classes IX to XII who wish to participate must register their names with the Vice Principal on or by 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

(ii) joygoswami@gmail.com

Annual Inter House Poetry Writing Festival

Dear Sir,

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Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mahinderpal Singh

**Format 3**

(i)

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We look forward to your presence with us. A line in confirmation would be much appreciated.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Mahinderpal Singh



ICSE ACADEMY

# Specimen Papers



- 2025

**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
**(ENGLISH PAPER – 1)**

*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time allowed: Two hours*

*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**.*

***Instruction for the Supervising Examiner***

*Kindly read aloud the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the Examination Hall.*

**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 woman, her strange neighbour and a police officer form the main characters.
- (ii) Your teacher has asked you to form a group and work on a particular project. Write an account of how you worked together and what each of you learned from the experience.
- (iii) *'Peer pressure is a force for good.'*  
Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) Describe the locality in which you live. Give details of the things you see and hear as you walk around your locality. What do you especially like about the place?
- (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 uncle was unable to attend your birthday celebrations but has sent you one thousand rupees as a gift. Write a letter thanking him, tell him how you will spend the money, and why you have made that particular choice.
- (ii) The garbage bins in your locality have not been cleared regularly resulting in the overflow of garbage in the area. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your city / town, complaining about the problem. Offer suggestions for the removal of the garbage and cleaning up of the place.

**Question 3**

- (i) Your school is hosting an Art and Craft exhibition. Write a notice informing the pupils at your school about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an e-mail to a local artist inviting him / her to inaugurate the exhibition and be the Chief Guest on the occasion. [5]

**Question 4**

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

One day I found the pond occupied by several buffaloes. Their keeper, a boy a little older than me, was swimming about in the middle. Instead of climbing out on the bank, he would pull himself up on the back of one of his buffaloes, stretch his naked brown body out on the animal's glistening *hide*, and start singing to himself.

When he saw me staring at him from across the pond, he smiled, showing gleaming white teeth in a dark face. He invited me to join him in a swim. I told him I couldn't swim, and he offered to teach me.

His name was Ramu, and he promised to give me swimming lessons every afternoon, and so it was during the afternoons – especially summer afternoons

10

when everyone was asleep – that we usually met. Before long I was able to swim across the pond to sit with Ramu astride a *contented* buffalo.

Sometimes I would slip into the water. Emerging in shades of green and khaki, I would sneak into the house through the bathroom and bathe under the tap before getting into my clothes.

One afternoon Ramu and I found a small tortoise in the mud, sitting over a hole in which it had laid several eggs. I presented the tortoise to Grandfather. He had a weakness for tortoises, and was pleased with this addition to his menagerie, giving it a large tub of water all to itself, with an island of rocks in the middle. If one of the dogs bothered it too much, it would draw its head and legs into its shell and defy all its attempts at rough play.

20

Ramu came from a family of bonded labourers and had received no schooling. But he was well-versed in folklore and knew a great deal about birds and animals.

‘Many birds are sacred,’ said Ramu, as we watched a blue jay swoop down from a peepul tree and carry off a grasshopper.

Both Ramu and Grandfather were of the opinion that we should be more gentle with birds and animals and should not kill so many of them.

‘It is also important that we respect them,’ said Grandfather. ‘We must acknowledge their rights. Birds and animals are finding it more difficult to survive, because we are trying to destroy both them and their forests.’

30

Ramu and I spent long summer afternoons at the pond. I still remember him with affection, though we never saw each other again after I left Dehra.

— *Rusty, the Boy from the Hills, Ruskin Bond*

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

1. hide (line 4)

- (a) blanket
- (b) fur
- (c) undisclosed
- (d) skin

2. contented (line 12)

- (a) cheerful
- (b) lazy
- (c) satisfied
- (d) container

(ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'easy'? [1]

- (a) sneak
- (b) difficult
- (c) labourer
- (d) survive

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

- (a) What did Ramu like to do once he had climbed on the back of a buffalo? [2]
- (b) What offer did Ramu make to the narrator? [2]
- (c) Why do you think the narrator would bathe before entering the house? [2]
- (d) Who was the large tub of water for? [1]
- (e) How would the tortoise protect itself from the dogs? [2]

(iv) Despite the lack of schooling what did Ramu know? How, according to Ramu and Grandfather, should we treat birds and animals? Answer in not more than fifty words. [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) The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) bright outside.

**Answer:** *shone*

It was hot in the railway compartment and the fan \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (not work). The elderly lady \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (use) up all her water because she had cheerfully shared it with her fellow passengers. She knew that the train \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (halt) at the station for only three minutes. Calling a shoeshine boy she said, 'Will you help me? I \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (need) a bottle of cold water and here is the money,' and she put a twenty rupee note in his hand. The boy snatched the money and \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (disappear) into the crowd on the platform. A fellow passenger \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (cannot believe) what he had witnessed. 'What \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (you do)?' He said, 'You \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (never see) your money again.' Just then the whistle was heard and the train began to move. At that moment the child appeared at the window with the water. 'Your water,' he gasped, out of breath. 'And the change.'

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
- (a) We can cut \_\_\_\_\_ this field instead of taking the main road.
  - (b) Passengers are advised \_\_\_\_\_ standing on the footboard of a moving bus.
  - (c) They have been working on the project \_\_\_\_\_ years now.
  - (d) Ever \_\_\_\_\_ the accident, he has been afraid of boarding buses.
  - (e) It is a hard climb \_\_\_\_\_ the hill.
  - (f) She turned \_\_\_\_\_ the offer because she did not like the terms and conditions.
  - (g) I will need to speak \_\_\_\_\_ my parents before I sign up for the school trip.
  - (h) The sports teacher was taken \_\_\_\_\_ when he heard how enthusiastic the team was.

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

1. Stay still. We cannot take your photograph otherwise.
  - (a) Stay still, else we cannot take your photograph otherwise.
  - (b) Stay still because we can take your photograph otherwise.
  - (c) Unless you stay still we cannot take your photograph.
  - (d) If you stay still we cannot take your photograph.
2. Roy's mother rang up the school office. She wanted to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
  - (a) Roy's mother rang up the school office as she want to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
  - (b) Roy's mother rang up the school office to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
  - (c) Roy's mother has rung up the school office to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
  - (d) Roy's mother rang up the school office wanting enquiry about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
3. I left my keys somewhere. Do you know where they are?
  - (a) Do you know where I had left my keys?
  - (b) Do you know where my keys were left behind?
  - (c) Do you know where I left my keys?
  - (d) Do you know where I would have left my keys?
4. The captain should not be blamed for the team's defeat. The players should not be blamed for the team's defeat.
  - (a) The captain should neither be blamed nor the players should be blamed for the team's defeat.
  - (b) Neither the captain nor the players should be blamed for the team's defeat.
  - (c) The captain should not be blamed for the team's defeat as the players should not be blamed for the team's defeat.
  - (d) The captain should not be blamed for the team's defeat but the players too should not be blamed for the team's defeat.

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

1. The audience broke into loud applause as soon as he finished speaking.  
(Begin with: *No sooner...*)
  - (a) No sooner he finished speaking that the audience broke into loud applause.
  - (b) No sooner had he finish speaking when the audience broke into loud applause.
  - (c) No sooner did he finish speaking than the audience broke into loud applause.
  - (d) No sooner the audience broke into loud applause than he finished speaking.
  
2. The news surprised everyone in my family.  
(Begin with: *The news took ...*)
  - (a) The news took everyone in my family by surprise.
  - (b) The news took everyone in my family with surprise.
  - (c) The news took with surprise everyone in my family.
  - (d) The news took everyone in my family for a surprise.
  
3. Yesterday was so much fun.  
(End with a question tag)
  - (a) Yesterday was so much fun, would you say?
  - (b) Was yesterday much fun?
  - (c) Yesterday was so much fun, isn't it?
  - (d) Yesterday was so much fun, wasn't it?
  
4. I wouldn't eat that food if I was not really hungry.  
(Use: *'unless'*)
  - (a) Unless I eat that food I will remain really hungry.
  - (b) I wouldn't be really hungry unless I ate that food.
  - (c) I wouldn't eat that food unless I was not really hungry.
  - (d) I wouldn't eat that food unless I was really hungry.

5. It is so hot and humid that I cannot sleep.  
(Use: too)
- (a) It is hot and humid too sleep.
  - (b) It is too hot and humid to sleep.
  - (c) It is hot and humid too, so I cannot sleep.
  - (d) It is too hot and humid such that I cannot sleep.
6. I prefer going out with friends to staying alone at home.  
(Begin with: I would rather...)
- (a) I would rather go out with friends than stay alone at home.
  - (b) I would rather prefer going out with friends than staying alone at home.
  - (c) I would rather prefer to go out with friends than stay alone at home.
  - (d) I would rather go out with friends to staying alone at home.
7. "Why were you absent yesterday?" the teacher asked me.  
(Begin with: The teacher asked me why...)
- (a) The teacher asked me why was I absent yesterday.
  - (b) The teacher asked me why I had been absent yesterday.
  - (c) The teacher asked me why I had been absent the day before.
  - (d) The teacher asked me why was I absent the day before.
8. Very few dancers are as graceful as she is.  
(Begin with: She is...)
- (a) She is one of the most graceful dancers.
  - (b) She is the most graceful dancer.
  - (c) She is more graceful than all the other dancers.
  - (d) She is more graceful than a few other dancers.

COMPOSITION

<b>Answer 1</b>		[20]
(i)	The story must be original and must have <u>at least three characters</u> – the woman, her neighbour and the policeman. The ‘strangeness’ of the neighbour must be qualified, the encounter described and the action that arises out of the encounter.	
(ii)	This is a first-person account and must be narrated from within the plausible experience of a Class X candidate. There must be a clear description of the work entailed, the way in which the students learned to work together, the take-away or lesson learned.	
(iii)	Views either for or against are to be accepted. The candidate should take a clear stand and give valid reasons for whatever stand he/she takes.  There should be a cohesive well-constructed logical argument and ideas based on logical reasoning and personal experience.	
(iv)	Words of sight and sound must form the main body of this composition. Describe clearly the sights and sounds. Explain what about the locality appeals to you.	
(v)	A wide interpretation will be accepted. Any relevant ideas taken from the picture should be accepted. However, a <i>mere itemization / listing / description</i> of the picture is to be avoided.	
<b>Answer 2</b>		[10]
(i)	Friendly/Informal letter Format, Content, Expression are important. <b>Content</b> Thank your uncle - you could use words like ‘grateful’, ‘thoughtful’ Describe how/on what you will spend the money – at least two things Explain why you chose the two – how they will be useful, for example	
(ii)	Formal letter Format, Content, Expression are important. <b>Content</b> Give details of problems caused e.g. spread of germs, stench Offer suggestions for removal/cleaning e.g. regular inspections, garbage removal vans, closed vats etc.	

<b>Answer 3</b>		[10]
(i)	<p>Creative Title – e.g. Colour Palette, Mix and Mould</p> <p>Event: Inter School Art and Craft Competition</p> <p>Date: Accept single date for example ten days or fortnight away from the date of writing</p> <p>Time: e.g. 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.</p> <p>Venue: smaller place to larger e.g. Carnation Hall, St. Helen's School</p> <p>Participate: All pupils who wish to register should give their names to the Vice Principal/etc on or before...</p>	
(ii)	<p>E-mail – id</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>Salutation</p> <p>Opening sentence</p> <p>Closing sentence</p> <p>Subscription</p> <p>Expression – All details of the notice are to be included in the e-mail.</p>	
<b>Answer 4</b>		
(i)	<p>1. (d) skin</p> <p>2. (c) satisfied</p>	[2]
(ii)	(b) difficult	[1]
(iii)	(a) he liked to stretch his naked brown body out on the animal's glistening hide/back, and start singing to himself	[2]
	(b) he offered to teach the narrator to swim/ give him swimming lessons every afternoon	[2]
	(c) any 2 reasons e.g to avoid being scolded for swimming/in the village pond/they swam when everyone was asleep – maybe the grownups would have been angry/they emerged in shades of green and khaki, so would have to sneak into the house through the bathroom and bathe under the tap to get clean first	[2]
	(d) the tortoise/presented by the narrator to his grandfather	[1]
	(e) it would draw its head and legs into its shell and defy all the dog's/dogs' attempts at rough play.	[2]
(iv)	<p>Points:</p> <p>1. Ramu was well-versed in folklore</p> <p>2. he knew a great deal about birds and animals</p>	[8]

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. many birds were sacred</li> <li>4. we should be more gentle with birds and animals</li> <li>5. we should not kill so many of them</li> <li>6. we should respect them</li> <li>7. we should acknowledge their rights</li> <li>8. we should not destroy their forests</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Any six)</i></p>	
<b>Answer 5</b>		
(i)	<p>[0. shone]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. was not working</li> <li>2. had used</li> <li>3. halted/would halt</li> <li>4. need</li> <li>5. disappeared</li> <li>6. could not believe</li> <li>7. are you doing</li> <li>8. will never see</li> </ol>	[4]
(ii)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. across</li> <li>b. against</li> <li>c. for</li> <li>d. since</li> <li>e. up</li> <li>f. down</li> <li>g. to</li> <li>h. aback</li> </ol>	[4]
(iii)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (c) Unless you stay still we cannot take your photograph.</li> <li>2. (b) Roy's mother rang up the school office to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.</li> <li>3. (c) Do you know where I left my keys?</li> <li>4. (b) Neither the captain nor the players should be blamed for the team's defeat.</li> </ol>	[4]

(iv)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. (c) No sooner did he finish speaking than the audience broke into loud applause.</li><li>2. (a) The news took everyone in my family by surprise.</li><li>3. (d) Yesterday was so much fun, wasn't it?</li><li>4. (d) I wouldn't eat that food unless I was really hungry.</li><li>5. (b) It is too hot and humid to sleep.</li><li>6. (a) I would rather go out with friends than stay alone at home.</li><li>7. (c) The teacher asked me why I had been absent the day before.</li><li>8. (a) She is one of the most graceful dancers.</li></ol>	[8]
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ICSE ACADEMY

# Specimen Papers

- 2024

**ICSE 2024 EXAMINATION**  
**SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**(ENGLISH PAPER – 1)**

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*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time allowed: Two hours*

*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 entitled: 'A Narrow Escape'.
- (ii) Have you ever forgiven someone when it was hard to do so?  
Explain what helped you to forgive them, and the positive impact it had.  
What did you learn from the experience?
- (iii) 'Competition hampers the overall development of students.'  
Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) You are taking a leisurely stroll in a beautiful garden.  
Describe what you see around you, adding details about the sounds and the scents.

- (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 recently read an interesting book that impacted you deeply. Write a letter to your friend highlighting the parts that impressed you. Explain two ways in which you would like to make changes in your behaviour or actions based on what you have read.
- (ii) As someone who enjoys gardening, you would like other students in your school to experience its benefits. Write a letter to the principal of your school seeking permission to start a club for students to learn about gardening. Give specific reasons for your request and explain why the club would meet after school hours.

### Question 3

- (i) Your school is hosting an interschool debate competition. Write a notice informing the students at your school about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an e-mail to the principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the interschool debate competition being held at your school and requesting him/her to send a team of students to participate. [5]

### Question 4

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

Tiger Talk:

It was still a busy hour in the city when I entered Market Road. People ran for their lives at the sight of me. As I progressed through, shutters were pulled down, and people hid themselves under culverts, on trees, behind pillars. The population was melting out of sight. At the circus I had had no chance to study human behaviour. Outside the circus ring they sat in their seats placidly while I cowered before Captain's whip. I got a totally wrong notion of human beings at that angle. I had thought that they were *sturdy* and fearless. But now I found them fleeing before me like a herd of deer, although I had no intention of attacking them. When I paused in front of a tailor's shop, he abandoned his machine and shut himself in a cupboard, wailing, 'Alas, I am undone, won't someone shoot that tiger?' A prisoner between two constables, who had been caught for murder and was just emerging from the Court House, got his chance to escape when the constables fled, abandoning him with his handcuffs. I tore a horse from its *jutka* and enjoyed the sight of the passengers spilling out of it and running for their lives. A couple of street dogs invited destruction when they barked madly, instead of minding their business.

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Later, I learnt from my master of the chaos that befell the city when it became known that Captain had been destroyed and that I was somewhere in the city. Sheer hopelessness seems to have seized the townspeople. They withdrew to their homes and even there remained nervous. All doors and windows everywhere were shut, bolted, and sealed. Some even thought that I was some extraordinary creature who might pass through the walls and lie in wait on the roof or in the loft or *basement*. Poor people living in huts had real cause to

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worry: I could have taken any of their homes apart. But why should I? One could understand their fears, but why should those living in brick and cement feel nervous? It was due to their general lack of a sense of security and an irrational dread of losing their assets. Why should a simple tiger have any interest in them either to destroy or to safeguard?

I rested for a moment at the door of Anand Bhavan, on Market Road, where coffee drinkers and tiffin eaters at their tables sat transfixed, uttering low moans on seeing me. I wanted to assure them, 'Don't fear, I am not out to trouble you. Eat your tiffin in peace, don't mind me ... You, nearest to me, hugging the cash box, you are craven with fear, afraid even to breathe. Go on, count the cash, if that's your pleasure. I just want to watch, that's all ... If my tail trails down to the street, if I am blocking your threshold, it is because, I'm told, I'm eleven feet tip to tail. I can't help it. I'm not out to kill ... I'm too full—found a green pasture teeming with food on the way. Won't need any for several days to come, won't stir, not until I feel hungry again. Tigers attack only when they feel hungry, unlike human beings who slaughter one another without purpose or hunger ...'

— *A Tiger in the School*, R. K. Narayanan

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

1. sturdy (line 7)
  - (a) brave
  - (b) strong
  - (c) compassionate
  - (d) fixed
2. basement (line 23)
  - (a) room at the top of the house
  - (b) library
  - (c) the ground floor
  - (d) a room at the bottom of the house

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- (ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word liabilities. [1]
- (a) threshold
  - (b) chaos
  - (c) assets
  - (d) cash box
- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (a) Which sentence in the passage tells us that the people were fast disappearing? [2]
  - (b) Why was the prisoner lucky on that day? [2]
  - (c) What reason does the tiger give to explain why people in brick and cement houses are nervous? [2]
  - (d) The passage describes a man who is shivering with fear and clutching his cash box. What kind of a person do you think he was? [2]
  - (e) How would you have reacted if a tiger walked into the street outside your school? [1]
- (iv) In not more than 50 words, describe the tiger's thoughts on how differently people behave inside and outside the circus. [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) Rikki-tikki \_\_\_\_\_ (know) better than to waste time in staring.

**Answer:** *knew*

Rikki-tikki was angry. He sat back on his tail and hind legs, and \_\_\_\_\_

(1) (look) all round him, \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (chatter) with rage. But Nag and Nagaina \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (disappear) already into the grass. When a snake misses its stroke, it never \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (say) anything or \_\_\_\_\_

(5) (give) any sign of what it means to do next. Rikki-tikki did not care to follow them, for he did not \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (feel) sure that he \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (can) manage two snakes at once. So, he trotted off to the gravel path, and sat down to think. It \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (is) a serious matter for him.

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

- (a) My sister and I get \_\_\_\_\_ very well with each other.
- (b) Mini plays basketball \_\_\_\_\_ her friends every day.
- (c) It has been twenty years \_\_\_\_\_ she graduated from college.
- (d) Growing up, we were looked \_\_\_\_\_ and brought up by our grandparents.
- (e) Most students take the bus \_\_\_\_\_ school as it reaches the premises on time.
- (f) The cricket match was put \_\_\_\_\_ because of torrential rains.
- (g) Roy backed \_\_\_\_\_ of the competition at the last minute.
- (h) I have been training under her \_\_\_\_\_ the past two years.

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

1. We placed our order late. We received the food on time.
  - (a) Despite placed our order late, the food was received on time.
  - (b) Despite placing our order late, we received the food on time.
  - (c) Despite we placed our order late, the food was received on time.
  - (d) Despite of us placing our order late, we receiving the food on time.
2. The music stopped. The audience left the auditorium.
  - (a) Hardly had the music stopped so the audience left the auditorium.
  - (b) Hardly had the music stopped then the audience left the auditorium.
  - (c) Hardly had the music stopped since the audience left the auditorium.
  - (d) Hardly had the music stopped when the audience left the auditorium.

3. You cannot enter the club. You do not have a membership.
- (a) You cannot enter the club unless you have a membership.
  - (b) You cannot enter the club since you have a membership.
  - (c) You cannot enter the club whereas you have a membership.
  - (d) You cannot enter the club if you have a membership.
4. She was very late. She could not catch the train.
- (a) She was to late to catch the train.
  - (b) She was so late to catch the train.
  - (c) She was too late to catch the train.
  - (d) She was as late so as to catch the train.
- (iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions [8]  
given after each sentence.
1. The burglar ran away the moment he saw the guard.  
(Begin with: *No sooner...*)
- (a) No sooner has the burglar seen the guard, he ran away.
  - (b) No sooner than the burglar saw the guard, he ran away.
  - (c) No sooner did the burglar see the guard when he ran away.
  - (d) No sooner had the burglar seen the guard than he ran away.
2. The parents have trained their children well.  
(Begin with: *The children ...*)
- (a) The children were trained well by their parents.
  - (b) The children is being trained well by their parents.
  - (c) The children had been trained well by their parents.
  - (d) The children have been trained well by their parents.
3. My cousins returned home one month ago.  
(Begin with: *'It has'...*)
- (a) It has been one month for my cousins' return home.
  - (b) It has been one month since my cousins returned home.
  - (c) It has been one month when my cousins returned home.
  - (d) It has been one month ago that my cousins returned home.

4. Your form will be accepted if it is submitted on time.  
(Use: 'unless')
- (a) Your form will be accepted unless it is submitted on time.
  - (b) Unless your form is submitted on time, it will not be accepted.
  - (c) Unless the form is accepted, it should be submitted on time.
  - (d) Your form will be accepted unless it is not submitted on time.
5. The house needs a thorough cleaning again.  
(Use: *thoroughly*)
- (a) The house needs a thoroughly cleaning again.
  - (b) The house needed a cleaning thoroughly again.
  - (c) The house needs to be cleaned thoroughly again.
  - (d) The house needed to be thoroughly clean yet again.
6. My sister offered me a new job in her company.  
(Begin with: *A new job...*)
- (a) A new job was offered to me by my sister in her company.
  - (b) A new job has been offered to me by my sister in her company.
  - (c) A new job had been offered to me by my sister in her company.
  - (d) A new job was being offered to me by my sister in her company.
7. "I am going to watch my friend's play tomorrow," she said.  
(Begin with: *She said...*)
- (a) She said that she is going to watch her friend's play tomorrow.
  - (b) She said that she will be going to watch her friend's play tomorrow.
  - (c) She said that she was going to watch my friend's play the following day.
  - (d) She said that she was going to watch her friend's play the following day.

8. Nithin is more talented than most of the professional musicians I know.

*(Use: few)*

- (a) Professional musicians I know have few talents as Nithin.
- (b) Few professional musicians I know are as talented as Nithin.
- (c) Few professional musicians I know are not as talented as Nithin.
- (d) Professional musicians I know do not have as few talents as Nithin.

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ICSE ACADEMY

# Specimen Papers

- 2023

ICSE 2023 EXAMINATION  
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(ENGLISH PAPER – 1)

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*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time allowed: Two hours*

*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**.*

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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 entitled: 'Lost and Found'.
- (ii) Imagine a situation where your mother has been unwell and you had to help her. Explain what you did to help. What did you learn from the experience?
- (iii) 'Democracy cannot survive without education'.

Express your views either for or against this statement.

- (iv) You are a regular traveller in your school bus. Describe what you see on your way home from school each afternoon. Give details of the familiar sights and sounds you experience each day.

- (v)8. 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 has been unwell and unable to attend school for two weeks. An interschool drama competition took place during this period. Write a letter to your friend telling him/her about the event and your role in it.
- (ii) Break time at your school is only for a duration of fifteen minutes. Write a letter to your Principal requesting for an extension in the break-time from fifteen minutes to half an hour. Give reasons for your request and explain in what way an extended break would make a difference to you as a student.

**Question 3**

- (i) Your school is hosting an interschool music competition. Write a notice informing your school about the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the event and requesting him/her to send a team to participate. [5]

## Question 4

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

He would have gone on worrying and worrying in this way if an unexpected **distraction** had not arrived in the form of a heavily loaded car bumping over the grassy bank, dodging between the coconut trees and raising a cloud of dust in the narrow path before it came to a standstill in front of Mon Repos, the white bungalow that stood empty most of the year. It was the de Silvas, the family that came from Bombay to spend an occasional holiday in it and bring it suddenly to life for a few days. They had bought Mon Repos a year ago from the Vakils who had been one of the first Bombay families to build holiday cottages on the Thul beach. But they had grown too old and **frail** to come often and, after the house has stood empty for several years, sold it to the de Silvas who were young and energetic and seemed heartily to enjoy life on the beach. Whenever they came, life changed for the family and the little hut, too. Immediately there was a hubbub, all kinds of excitement and expectations, and of course work to be done, employment to be had and wages.

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Hari, Bela and Kamal stood by their door under the frangipani tree, tense with excitement watching and holding Pinto back as he barked at the unfamiliar sight of a car and stranger till his voice was quite hoarse. There was a commotion in the marshy creek that separated the hut from the house, too – herons, egrets, kingfishers and moorhens all flapping into the **dense** greenery of the pandanus, the casuarina and the bhindi trees for shelter.

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‘Do you think they have come here for good?’ Bela whispered.

‘Hunh – who would live here if he had a house in Bombay?’ Hari scoffed.

‘But look how much luggage they’ve brought – it can’t be just for a few days,’ Bela said, and it was true that an unbelievable number of boxes and bags and baskets were being taken out of the car, out of the boot and off the luggage carrier so that anyone would have thought they had come to stay forever.

*Village by the Sea*

*Anita Desai*

(i)8. For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [3]

1. distraction (line 2)

- (a) something that stops you from thinking about something else
- (b) something that helps you to think about something else
- (c) something that you use for weight-training
- (d) something that helps you to not be distracted

2. frail (line 9)

- (a) strong
- (b) funny
- (c) fast
- (d) weak

3. dense (line 19)

- (a) stupid
- (b) very thick
- (c) a kind of tree
- (d) sparse

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

- (a) Who were the Vakils? [2]
- (b) Why was the house more suited to the De Silvas? [2]
- (c) Who was Pinto? [1]
- (d) What effect did the noise have on the natural surroundings? [2]
- (e) From Hari's answer to Bela's question what opinion does Hari have of Bombay? [2]

(iii) In not more than 50 words describe how the arrival of the De Silvas changed life for the family in the little hut. [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) I \_\_\_\_\_ (slow) the car as I saw the new house.

**Answer:** *slowed*

I \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (pull) up into the driveway \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (observe) the way they had \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (build) up the balcony. I \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (forgot) that the bricks of the house \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (be) chocolate brown. The new people \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (make) the tiny balcony into a study room. I \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (stare) at this house, \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (remember) my childhood there.

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

(a) Please wash \_\_\_\_\_ the curry stain from your dress.

(b) She turned \_\_\_\_\_ the offer to work at the factory.

(c) The burglars broke \_\_\_\_\_ the house when the family was away.

(d) I shall compete \_\_\_\_\_ him.

(e) She agreed \_\_\_\_\_ my proposal.

(f) She would like to come \_\_\_\_\_ foot.

(g) The Vishwas group of companies has taken \_\_\_\_\_ the cosmetic market completely.

(h) He agreed to carry \_\_\_\_\_ the manager's orders.

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

1. The delegates arrived. The meeting started immediately.

(a) No sooner did the delegates arrive than the meeting started.

(b) No sooner did the delegates arrive, the meeting started.

(c) No sooner the delegates arrived than the meeting started.

(d) The delegates arriving, the meeting started.

8. 2. We lost our ticket. We lost our luggage.
- (a) We lose our ticket as well as our luggage.
  - (b) Having lost our ticket we lost our luggage.
  - (c) We lost our ticket as well as our luggage.
  - (d) We lost our ticket and we lost our luggage.
3. He cultivates orchids. He displays them at the flower show.
- (a) He cultivates orchids to display at the flower show.
  - (b) He cultivates orchids for displayed at the flower show.
  - (c) He cultivates orchids to play with at the flower show.
  - (d) He cultivates orchids, but displays them only at the flower show.
4. He ran away. He had seen the Principal coming.
- (a) No sooner did he see the Principal coming, he ran away.
  - (b) He ran to see the Principal coming.
  - (c) By seeing the Principal coming, he ran away.
  - (d) Seeing the Principal coming, he ran away.

(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. The captain said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening".  
(Begin: The captain.....)
- (a) The captain said that it was giving him great pleasure to be there that evening.
  - (b) The captain said that it gives me great pleasure to be there this evening.
  - (c) The captain said that it gave him great pleasure to be here this evening.
  - (d) The captain said that it gave him great pleasure to be there that evening.

8.

2. Unless the train arrives on time, we shall miss the concert.

*(Begin: If.....)*

- (a) If the train arrives on time, we shall miss the concert.
- (b) If the train does not arrive on time, we shall miss the concert.
- (c) If the train arrived on time, we shall miss the concert.
- (d) If the train does not arrive on time, we shall not miss the concert.

3. He has applied many times. He has never been selected.

*(Begin: In spite.....)*

- (a) In spite of applying many times, he had never been selected.
- (b) In spite applying many times, he has never been selected.
- (c) In spite of applying many times, he has never been selected.
- (d) In spite never being selected, he has applied many times.

4. Very few managers are as honest as James.

*(End: ..... managers)*

- (a) James is more honest than other managers.
- (b) James is more honest than most other managers.
- (c) James is honest than many other managers.
- (d) James is most honest among other managers.

5. I accept your offer.

*(Use: acceptable)*

- (a) Your offer is acceptable to me.
- (b) Your offer was acceptable to me.
- (c) Your offer is acceptable.
- (d) Your acceptable offer came to me.

8.

6. As soon as he finishes his work, he starts playing.  
(Begin: Hardly.....)
- (a) Hardly his work is finished, he starts playing.
  - (b) Hardly he finishes his work, he starts playing.
  - (c) Hardly he has finished his work and he starts playing.
  - (d) Hardly does he finish his work, when he starts playing.
7. My father gave me a pen.  
(Begin: A pen.....)
- (a) A pen had been given to me by my father.
  - (b) A pen was given to me by my father.
  - (c) My father was gave me a pen.
  - (d) A pen was given by me to my father.
8. I have never seen Mr. Joe lose his temper.  
(Begin: Never.....)
- (a) Never I have seen Mr. Joe lose his temper.
  - (b) Never did I see Mr. Joe lose his temper.
  - (c) Never have I seen Mr. Joe losing his temper.
  - (d) Never ever did I see Mr. Joe lose his temper.

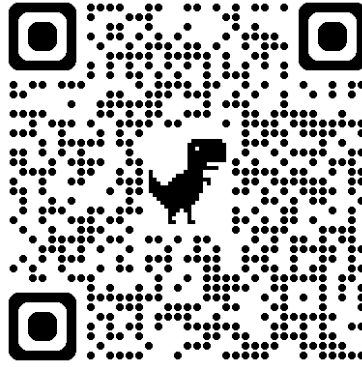


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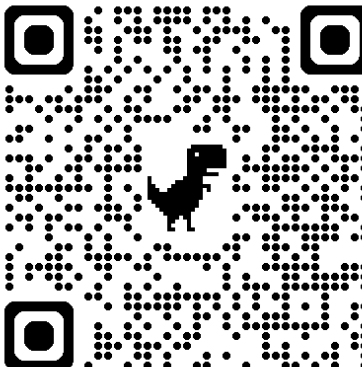
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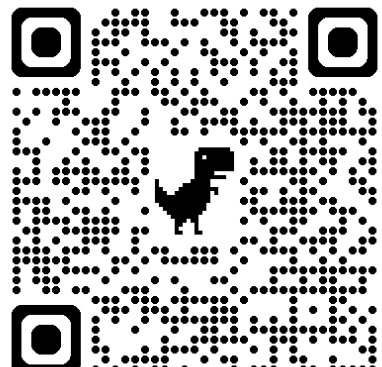
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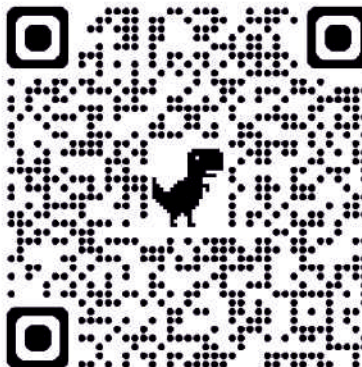
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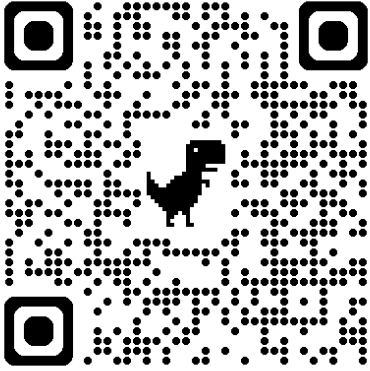
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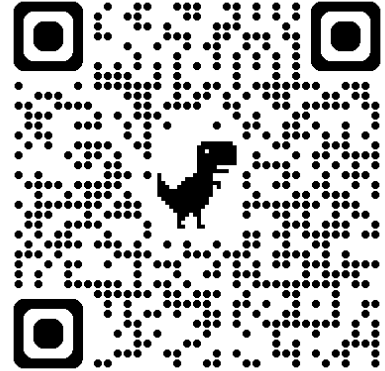
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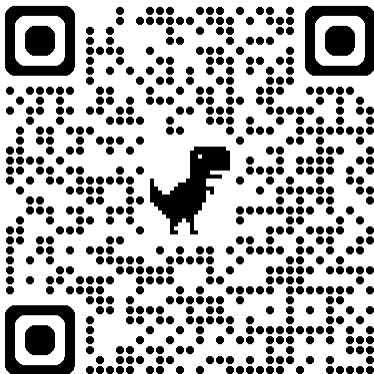
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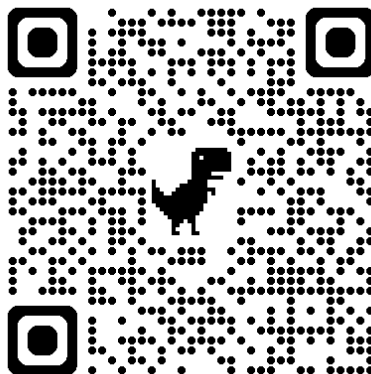
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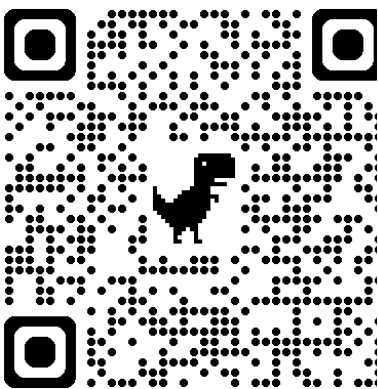
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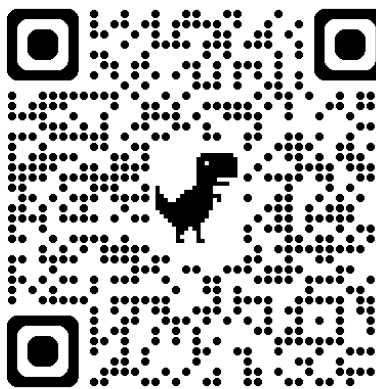
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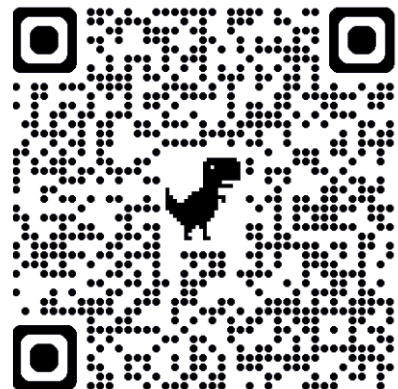
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