ICSE SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
English Paper - 1

_____

Maximum Marks: 40

Time allowed: One hour (inclusive of reading time)

ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY.

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

_____

Select the correct option for each of the following questions*.*

Question 1

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

I was never able to get over the feeling that plants and trees loved Grandfather with as much **tenderness** as he loved them. I was sitting beside him on the veranda steps one morning, when I noticed the tendril of a creeping vine that was trailing near my feet. As we sat there, in the soft sunshine of a north Indian winter, I saw that the tendril was moving very slowly away from me and towards Grandfather. Twenty minutes later it had crossed the veranda step and was touching Grandfather's feet.

There is probably a scientific **explanation** for the plant's behaviour something to do with light and warmth—but I like to think that it moved that way simply because it was fond of Grandfather. One felt like drawing close to him. Sometimes when I sat alone beneath a tree I would feel a little lonely or lost; but as soon as Grandfather joined me, the garden would become a happy place, the tree itself more friendly.

Grandfather had served many years in the Indian Forest Service, and so it was natural that he should know and understand and like trees. On his retirement from the Service, he had built a bungalow on the outskirts of Dehra, planting trees all round it: limes, mangoes, oranges and guavas; also eucalyptus,

jacaranda and the Persian lilac. In the fertile Doon valley, plants and trees grew tall and strong.

There were other trees in the compound before the house was built, including an old peepul which had forced its way through the walls of an abandoned outhouse, knocking the bricks down with its **vigorous** growth. Peepul trees are great show-offs. Even when there is no breeze, their broad-chested, slim-waisted leaves will spin like tops, determined to attract your attention and invite you into the shade.

Grandmother had wanted the peepul tree cut down, but Grandfather had said, 'Let it be. We can always build another outhouse.'

Our gardener, Govind, who was a Hindu, was pleased that we had allowed the tree to live. Peepul trees are sacred to Hindus, and some people believe that ghosts live in the branches of these trees.

'If we cut the tree down, wouldn't the ghosts go away?' I asked.

'I don't know,' said Grandfather. 'Perhaps they'd come into the house.'

Govind wouldn't walk under the tree at night. He said that once, when he was a youth, he had wandered beneath a peepul tree late at night, and that something heavy had fallen with a thud on his shoulders. Since then he had always walked with a slight stoop, he explained.

'Nonsense,' said Grandmother, who didn't believe in ghosts. 'He got his stoop from squatting on his haunches year after year, weeding with that tiny spade of his!'

I never saw any ghosts in our peepul tree. There are peepul trees all over India, and people sometimes leave offerings of milk and flowers beneath them to keep the spirits happy. But since no one left any offerings under our tree, I expect the ghosts left in disgust, to look for peepul trees where there was both board and lodging.

Grandfather was about sixty, a lean active man who still rode his bicycle at

great speed. He had stopped climbing trees a year previously, when he had got to the top of the jackfruit tree and had been unable to come down again. We had to fetch a ladder for him.

Grandfather bathed quite often but got back into his gardening clothes immediately after the bath. During meals, ladybirds or caterpillars would sometimes walk off his shirtsleeves and wander about on the tablecloth, and this always annoyed Grandmother.

She grumbled at Grandfather a lot, but he didn't mind, because he knew she loved him.

[From 'The Tree Lover', Rusty the Boy from the Hills by Ruskin Bond]

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

(i) tenderness:
   1. affection
   2. soreness
   3. youthfulness

(ii) explanation:
   1. an excuse or pretext
   2. a statement or account that makes something clear
   3. a long-winded speech

(iii) vigorous:
   1. strong, healthy, and full of energy
   2. manipulating and meandering
   3. timorous

(b) Why did the author feel that plants loved Grandfather with as much tenderness as he loved them? [2]

   1. He saw the tendril of a creeping vine move very slowly towards Grandfather and cross the veranda step to touch Grandfather's feet.
   2. Because the creeper moved as they sat there, in the soft sunshine of a

north Indian winter; it was something to do with light and warmth.

3. He saw the tendril of a creeping vine moving very slowly towards him, crossing the veranda step to touch the author's feet.

(c) Where had Grandfather worked for many years? [2]

1. the Indian Revenue Service

2. the Botanical Gardens

3. the Indian Forest Service

(d) Which trees did Grandfather plant around his bungalow? [2]

1. limes, mangoes, oranges, guavas, eucalyptus, jacaranda, the Persian lilac and a peepul tree

2. limes, mangoes, oranges, guavas, eucalyptus, jacaranda and the Persian lilac

3. creeper vines, limes, mangoes, oranges, guavas, eucalyptus, jacaranda, the Persian lilac, ladybirds and caterpillars

(e) Why does the author say peepul trees are great show-offs? [2]

1. because there are peepul trees all over India, and people sometimes leave offerings of milk and flowers beneath them to keep the spirits happy.

2. because even when there is no breeze, their broad-chested, slim-waisted leaves will spin like tops, determined to attract your attention and invite you into the shade.

3. because ghosts lived in peepul trees where there was both board and lodging.

(f) How do we know Grandfather was fit? [2]

1. because even at about sixty he was a lean active man who still rode his bicycle at great speed.

2. because he climbed up but couldn't get down from the jackfruit tree.

3. because he planted so many trees around his bungalow all by himself.

(g) Why did ladybirds or caterpillars sometimes wander about on the tablecloth? [2]

   1. because Grandfather came straight to the dining table after his work in the garden.

   2. because Grandfather loved both plants and animals and liked to keep them near.

   3. because Grandfather wore his gardening clothes at mealtimes and they would wander off his shirtsleeves and onto the tablecloth.

(h) What has the author said about the old peepul tree? Which of the following combination of sentences best summarizes the answer? [5]

   1. The old peepul knocked down the brick walls of an abandoned outhouse with its vigorous growth. There are peepul trees all over India, and people sometimes leave offerings of milk and flowers beneath them to keep the spirits happy. Govind said that once, when he was a youth, he had wandered beneath a peepul tree late at night, and that something heavy had fallen with a thud on his shoulders. Since then he had always walked with a slight stoop.

   2. The old peepul knocked down the brick walls of an abandoned outhouse with its vigorous growth. Grandmother wanted it cut down but Grandfather said they could always build another one. Govind was pleased but frightened of resident ghosts. As no one left any offerings under the tree, the author decided the ghosts must have left in disgust, to look for trees offering board and lodging.

   3. The old peepul knocked down the brick walls of an abandoned outhouse with its vigorous growth. There are peepul trees all over India, and people sometimes leave offerings of milk and flowers beneath them to keep the spirits happy. Grandmother said Govind got his stoop from squatting on his haunches year after year, weeding with that tiny spade of his rather than from any resident ghosts alighting on his shoulders.

Question 2

(a) Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the words provided after the   [4]
passage:

When he saw the cottage, over amongst some bushes with a rank growth of
nettles at one end, he (i) _____ (think) it was a miserable place. But
when he came close to the peeling lime wash, the torn-down ivy, sagging roof,
the (ii) _____ (break) stone doorstep, thick with trampled mud, he
saw that it was a wretched house. The door (iii) _____ (stand) half-
open, stuck. He knocked at it and (iv) _____ (listen) to the acute
silence. He knocked again firmly and thought he (v) _____ (hear) thin
whisperings. He did not like the (vi) _____ (hush) fear in the sounds,
and was just about (vii) _____ (knock) peremptorily when there was
a shuffling and, as quietly as an apparition, a woman (viii)_____ (is) there.

(i) 1.   Thinks

2.   thought

3.   thinked

(ii) 1.   Breaks

2.   broken

3.   breaking

(iii) 1.   stood

2.   is standing

3.   had been standing

(iv) 1.   was listening

2.   had been listening

3.   listened

(v) 1.   could hear

2.   had been hearing

3.   was hearing

(vi) 1.   Hushing

2. hushed

3. hush

(vii)1. Knocked

2. knocking

3. to knock

(viii)1. Be

2. is

3. was

(b)   Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks: [4]

(i) Surprised _____ the noise, the judge called for silence.

1. on

2. at

3. with

(ii) Ravi's parents are not happy _____ his behaviour.

1. for

2. by

3. with

(iii) The Colonel congratulated the soldiers _____ their victory.

1. beside

2. alongside

3. on

(iv) The planet was seen _____ the telescope.

1. outside

2. before

3. through

(v) He is not afraid _____ the consequences.

1. over

2. of

3. for

(vi) He rushed _____ the class as he was late.

    1.   into

    2.   onto

    3.   in

(vii) The school is famous _____ its sports achievements.

    1.   of

    2.   for

    3.   besides

(viii)_____ being clever, he is brave.

    1.   Despite

    2.   Besides

    3.   For

(c)   Choose the correct option to join the following sentences without using 'and',   [4]
'but' or 'so':

(i)   She sells sea shells. She sells them on the sea shore.

    1.   She sells sea shells on the sea shore.

    2.   The sea shells which she sells are found on the sea shore.

    3.   She sells sea shells which are on the sea shore.

(ii) Why are you upset? Did someone scold you?

    1.   You are upset having been scolded by someone.

    2.   She asked him why he was upset and if he had been scolded.

    3.   Are you upset because someone scolded you?

(iii) She has not seen the message perhaps. She may have chosen to ignore it.

    1.   Perhaps she chose to ignore the message which she had seen.

    2.   She may either have not seen the message or chosen to ignore it.

    3.   Neither did she see the message nor ignore it.

(iv) I often wake up late in the mornings. I am never late for school.

    1.   Although I often wake up late in the mornings, I am never late for school.

    2.   I am sometimes late for school because I often wake up late in the mornings.

    3.   I am never late for school because I usually wake up on time.

(d)   Read each sentence with its instructions. Choose the correct answer from the options provided beneath each: [8]

(i)   I couldn't stop my teeth from chattering as it was very cold.

    (Use 'so')

    1.   It was so cold that I couldn't stop my teeth from chattering.

    2.   It was so difficult to stop my teeth from chattering it being cold.

    3.   I couldn't stop my teeth from chattering so it was very cold.

(ii) As soon as the vacation begins, my neighbour rushes to the seaside.

    (Begin: No sooner…)

    1.   No sooner does my vacation begin than the neighbour rushes to the seaside.

    2.   No sooner does the vacation begin than my neighbour rushes to the seaside.

    3.   No sooner did the vacation begin when my neighbour rushed to the seaside.

(iii) "Will you lend me the book tomorrow?" Priya asked her classmate.

    (Begin: Priya asked her classmate if…………………………)

    1.   Priya asked her classmate if he would lend her the book the next day.

    2.   Priya asked her classmate if he would lent her the book tomorrow.

    3.   Priya asked her classmate if he will lend her the book the day after.

(iv) But for Laila's support, the woman would have lost her job.

    (Begin: Had…)

    1.   Had Laila supported her, the woman would not have lost her job.

    2.   Had Laila supported her, the woman would have lost her job.

    3.   Had it not been for Laila's support, the woman would have lost her job.

(v) Herbert consulted his parents before accepting the job offer.

(Begin: Herbert did not ………..)

1. Herbert did not forgot to consult his parents before accepting the job offer.

2. Herbert did not forget to consult his parents before accepting the job offer.

3. Herbert did not consult his parents before accepting the job offer.

(vi) The tornado had been raging for several hours before people were moved to safety.

(Begin: The people…)

1. The people were moved to safety before the tornado had been raging for several hours.

2. The people were moved to safety only while the tornado had been raging for several hours.

3. The people were moved to safety only after the tornado had been raging for several hours.

(vii) Put your tools away, the children may fall over them.

(Use: lest………………)

1. Put your tools away lest the children may fall over them.

2. Put your tools away lest the children fall over them.

3. Put your tools away, children,lets fall over them.

(viii) Unless you begin now, you will never finish.

(Use 'If')

1. If you never finish, you must begin now.

2. If you do not begin now, you will never finish.

3. If you begin now, you will never finish.