

ISC SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER FOR 2011 EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

Paper 1

(Three Hours)

*(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for **only** reading the paper.*

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

*Attempt all **four** questions.*

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

*(You are advised to spend not more than **50** minutes on Question 1, **40** minutes on*

*Question 2, **30** minutes on Question 3 and **1 hour** on Question 4.)*

(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)

Question 1

[30]

Write a composition (in approximately 450-500 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.)

- (a) You are returning to your town or city after a long stay abroad. What are the thoughts and emotions that fill your mind and heart as you return.
- (b) ‘Boys will be boys,’ say fond mothers. Explore this statement, giving your views.
- (c) ‘‘Money is the root cause of all unhappiness in the World.’’ Argue for or against the proposition.
- (d) Joy.
- (e) Concern for the Environment is of prime importance today. Suggest ways in which young people can contribute to preserve our environment.
- (f) Write an original short story with the title: ‘The Beginning of the End.’.

Question 2

[20]

A devastating cyclone has hit your city recently and has left a trail of destruction in its wake. Write a report on the cyclone and its aftermath in about 300 words, using the notes given below. You may include other relevant details.

Cause of the cyclone – date and time when it struck – warning issued by the meteorological department – intensity and wind velocity – destruction to people and property – panic among the people – rescue and relief measures undertaken by the administration – role of media – compensation announced by government.

Question 3

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

- (a) In each of the following items, sentence **A** is complete, but sentence **B** is not. Complete sentence **B**, making it as similar in meaning as possible to sentence **A**. Write down sentence **B** complete in each case.

[10]

Example : (0) A: I expect he will get there by lunch time.

B: I expect him

Answer : (0) I expect him to get there by lunch time.

(1) A : No body I know likes warm milk

B : I.....

(2) A : The plane could not take off because of the fog.

B : It

(3) A : As soon as she bought everything on her list, she went home to cook dinner.

B : No sooner

(4) (A) : Owing to ill-luck, he met with a bad accident on the eve of his examination.

(B) : He was

- (5) (A) : Satish said to me, 'Please do not leave your place till I tell you what is to be done'.
- (B) : Satish requested me
- (6) (A) : Maya's attitude to her sister has always puzzled me.
- (B) : I have
- (7) (A) : As soon as the vacation begins, Mr. Chips leaves for the hills.
- (B) : Hardly
- (8) (A) : He was the best teacher in the school.
- (B) : No
- (9) (A) : His rude manner surprised all his subordinates.
- (B) : All his subordinates
- (10) (A) : She reached the examination hall although her car broke down on the way.
- (B) : Despite

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence): [5]

- (1) Can she take _____ the additional responsibility?
- (2) I have every confidence _____ him.
- (3) She had a good reason _____ being angry.
- (4) He fell a victim _____ his own greed.
- (5) He never seems to be satisfied _____ what is done for him.
- (6) That excuse won't go _____ well with the teacher.
- (7) My mother is a good cook, but she won't give _____ her trade secrets.
- (8) We were astonished _____ what he told us.
- (9) He took a long time to recover _____ his illness.

(10) The audience showed their approval _____ his speech by prolonged applause.

(c) Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the word given in brackets. [5]
(Do not write the sentence):

- (1) My teacher never _____ (give) me a chance to speak.
- (2) His voice gradually _____ (sink) to a whisper.
- (3) My family and I _____ (suffer) a great deal lately.
- (4) I would not tell her about the matter if I _____ (be) you.
- (5) I _____ (know) him since we were at school together.
- (6) She swam across the river as fast as she _____ (can).
- (7) By this time next year, you _____ (forget) all your present troubles.
- (8) I _____ (start) my homework before he came.
- (9) I _____ (stand) in the rain and waited for the bus.
- (10) They _____ (beat) us at football for the last five years.

Question 4

Read carefully the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

Ernest felt now that the turning point of his life had come. He would give up all for Christ, even his tobacco. So he gathered together his pipes and tobacco and locked them up in his portmanteau under his bed where they should be out of sight and as much out of his mind as possible. He did not burn them because someone might come in who wanted to smoke, and though he might abridge his own liberty, yet as smoking was not a sin, there was no reason why he should be hard on other people.

In one matter only did he openly back-slide. He had, as I said above, locked up his pipes and tobacco so that he might not be tempted to use them. All day long on the day after Mr. Hawker's sermon, he let them lie in his portmanteau bravely; but this was not very difficult as he had for sometime given up smoking till chapel time. Then he went to the chapel in self-defense. When he returned, he determined to look at the matter from a common sense point of view. He saw that, provided tobacco did not injure his health – and he really could not see that it did – it stood much on the same footing as tea or coffee. Tobacco had nowhere been forbidden in the Bible, but then it had not yet been discovered and had probably only escaped proscription for this reason. We can conceive of St. Paul or even out Lord himself drinking a cup of tea, but we cannot imagine either of them smoking a cigarette. Ernest could not deny this and admitted that Paul would almost certainly have condemned tobacco in good round terms if he had known of its existence. Was it not then taking a rather mean advantage of the Apostle to stand on his not having actually forbidden it? On the other hand, it was possible that God knew Paul would have forbidden smoking and had purposely arranged the discovery of tobacco for a period at which Paul should be

no longer living. This might seem rather hard on Paul, considering all he had done for Christianity, but it would be made up to him in other ways.

These reflections satisfied Ernest that on the whole he had better smoke, so he sneaked to his portmanteau and brought out his pipes and tobacco again. These should be moderation he felt in all things even in virtue; so for that night he smoked immoderately. It was a pity, however, that he had bragged to Dawson about giving up smoking. The pipes had better be kept in a cupboard for a week or two, till in other and easier respects Ernest should have proved his steadfastness. Then they might steal out again little by little – and so they did.

(From:- The way of All Flesh – Samuel Butler)

- (a) (i) Use each of the following words, as used in the passage, in a sentence of your own construction so as to bring out its meaning very clearly. Using the word in a context very similar to the passage will be penalized. [5]

- (1) liberty
- (2) openly
- (3) determined
- (4) forbidden
- (5) moderation.

- (ii) For each of the words given below write a sentence of at least 10 words, using the same word **unchanged in form, but with a different meaning** from that which it carries in the passage: [4]

- (1) even
- (2) mind
- (3) might
- (4) lie

- (iii) Explain, in the context of the passage, in not more than two sentences of your own, the meaning of each of the following expressions taken from the passage. (Merely using phrases will not do). [4]

- (1) the turning point of his life had come
- (2) there was no reason why other people
- (3) it stood much on the same footing.....coffee
- (4) this might seem rather hard on Paul.

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

- (i) What did Ernest resolve and why? [2]
- (ii) Why didn't Ernest burn his pipes? [2]
- (iii) What did he decide to do after returning from chapel? [1]
- (iv) Why did he convince himself that there should be moderation in virtue? [1]
- (v) In which aspects did he decide to prove his steadfastness? [1]

(c) In not more than 100 words explain Ernest's thoughts on smoking in relation to the Bible and Christianity.

(Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalized.) [10]