

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 part 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**

**[20]**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on **any one** of the following:

- (a) Write an original short story based on the title "A Mysterious Phone Call."
- (b) Imagine that there was a train accident near your colony. Describe the scene of the accident and what you did to help the injured.
- (c) You recently visited your grandparents, who live in a village, away from the humdrum of city life. Narrate your experience of living in the lap of nature.

**Question 2**

**[10]**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Select **any one** of the following:

- (a) You are studying in a residential school. Write a letter to your father, explaining how you are spending your time in the hostel.
- (b) Write a letter to the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, complaining about the street lights of your locality that do not function and have not been repaired for long.

**Question 3**

**[10]**

- (a) Your school is organising an inter-school story writing competition. Write a notice to be put in your school informing the students and inviting them to participate in the competition.
- (b) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him/her to send two participants from his/her school for the inter-school story writing competition.

**Question 4**

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

The Greek ships crossed the sea and touched the coast of Asia Minor, near the city of Troy. The Greeks disembarked here and pitched their tents. They remained in this camp as long as they

**besieged** the city. Much beyond the beach was a vast plain and further up was a high hill on which Troy stood. The city was strongly fortified against any attack from enemies, besides, the Trojans were sure of the landscape of the region.

Quite often they sailed forth against the Greeks but made sure that most of the fighting took place in the plain between the city and the sea.

The Greeks on their part were prudent warriors. They made no attempt to take the city by storm, but were content with skirmishes and single combats. After nine years of fighting in an alien land, the Greeks had little prospect as ever of recovering Helen from the Trojans. The Greek soldiers had become so restless that they were anxious to return to their families. Soon there fell a calamity which further aggravated the situation.

It came about in this way. The Greeks frequently raided the smaller towns and villages of Troy. In one of the raids a fair maiden called Chryseis was captured together with her friend Briseis, and they were taken as slaves to the Greek camp. When the sharing out of slaves took place, Agamemnon chose Chryseis; and Briseis was given to Achilles.

Chryseis, who was chosen by Agamemnon, was the daughter of old Chryses, a priest of Apollo. The old man came to the Greek camp, knelt in tears before Agamemnon, offering a rich ransom for his daughter. The Greeks refused to grant his request and the priest departed with great sorrow. As he walked along the shore, he lifted his hands in prayer to Apollo and implored him to avenge the indignities which he had suffered at the Greek camp.

The great Apollo heeded to his prayer and sent a terrible **pestilence** amongst the Greeks. For nine days the cries of dying soldiers rent the air. So the Greek princes held council together and called upon a seer to explain the reason for this plague.

"You have offended Apollo," said the seer, "because you have insulted his priest. The plague will last until you send back Chryseis to her father."

"Then let us not waste time," said Achilles. "Let us send her back without delay."

Agamemnon became furious. "It is easy for you to say so, he retorted. "You yourself run no risk of losing your maiden. But I agree to your proposal on the following terms: Chryseis shall be returned to her father but you shall surrender Briseis to me, to compensate me for my loss."

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

1. *besieged*

(a) bombarded (b) surrounded

(c) cornered (d) tortured

2. *pestilence*

(a) sickness (b) contamination

(c) epidemic (d) illness

- (ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'vulnerable'? [1]  
 (a) fortified (b) attack  
 (c) fighting (d) prudent
- (iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (a) What advantages did the Trojans have over the Greeks in the war? [2]  
 (b) What made the Greek soldiers restless and dissatisfied? [2]  
 (c) State what happened to the captives taken in the raid. [1]  
 (d) Who was the leader of the Greek forces: Achilles or Agamemnon? Give a reason [2]  
 to your answer.  
 (e) Narrate what the priest of Apollo did when spurned by Agamemnon. [2]
- (iv) In not more than 50 words, narrate the calamity that had befallen the Greeks and how [8]  
 they managed to come out of it.

### Question 5

- (A) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in [4]  
 brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase  
 appropriate to the blank space.

Example: **Answer** (0): to make

The innkeeper was unable .....(0)(make) both ends meet even though he did his  
 best to draw customers by .....(1)(make) The Silver Star Inn comfortable. So  
 he.....(2)(consult) a sage in order to solve his problem.

The sage advised him to change the name of his inn to The Five Bells Inn; and have a  
 row of six bells hanging at the entrance. The Innkeeper did what he.....(3)(tell).  
 And this is what he.....(4)(see).

Every traveller, who passed by the inn walked in to point out the mistake. Once  
 inside, they.....(5)(impress) by the cordiality of the service and.....(6)(decide)  
 to check in into the inn. This provided the innkeeper with the fortune that  
 he.....(7)(seek) in vain for so long. There.....(8)(be) few things a person  
 delights in more than finding fault with other people's work.

- (B) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
1. The treasure was hidden ..... the trees in the forest.
  2. She had been working for the company ..... five years.
  3. We are running..... time, so hurry up!
  4. There's usually an advantage ..... playing at home.
  5. The committee will decide ..... the new rules tomorrow.
  6. He is very ill, but he will pull .....

7. A cheque was enclosed ..... the letter.

8. I haven't seen her ..... last Tuesday.

**(C)** Choose the correct sentence joining technique *without using "and," "but," or "so"*: [4]

1. He is a skilled musician. He lacks confidence.

(a) He is a skilled musician, though he lacks confidence.

(b) He is a skilled musician but lacks confidence.

(c) He is a skilled musician, and he lacks confidence.

(d) He is a skilled musician, so he lacks confidence.

2. He is an actor. He has a huge fan following.

(a) He is an actor as he has a huge fan following.

(b) He has a huge fan following because he was an actor.

(c) He has a huge fan following because he is an actor.

(d) Being an actor, he had a huge fan following.

3. She was excited. She couldn't attend the party.

(a) She was excited, but she couldn't attend the party.

(b) She was excited and she couldn't attend the party.

(c) She was excited, yet she couldn't attend the party.

(d) She was excited, so she couldn't attend the party.

4. He was very dull. He could not understand.

(a) He was so dull and could not understand.

(b) He was very dull that he could not understand.

(c) He was too dull that he could not understand.

(d) He was too dull to understand.

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

1. The girl is too tall to wear the dress. (Use 'so')

(a) The girl is tall so she cannot wear the dress.

(b) The girl is so tall that she cannot wear the dress.

(c) The girl is very tall owing to which she cannot wear the dress.

(d) The girl is so tall that she could not wear the dress.

2. Everybody came to the party hosted by the Manager. (Begin: 'Nobody...')

(a) Nobody failed to attend the party hosted with the Manager.

(b) Nobody is not coming to the party hosted by the Manager.

(c) Nobody missed the party hosted by the Manager.

(d) Nobody stayed for the party hosted by the Manager.

3. Patience is the most important virtue one must have. (Begin: 'Isn't...')

(a) Isn't patience the most important virtue that they have?

- (b) Isn't patience the most important virtue that one must have?  
(c) Isn't patience be the most important virtue that all have?  
(d) Isn't patience become the most important virtue one has?
4. Who brought you here? (Begin: 'By whom...')
- (a) By whom were you brought here?  
(b) By whom are you brought here?  
(c) By whom is you brought here?  
(d) By whom you are brought?
5. She said, "Alas ! I have failed." (Begin: 'She exclaimed...')
- (a) She exclaimed sadly that she failed.  
(b) She exclaimed sadly that she had failed.  
(c) She exclaimed sadly that I failed.  
(d) She exclaimed that she failed.
6. She enquired if he was John's father. (End: "...John's father?")
- (a) She said are you John's father?  
(b) She asked him, "Were you John's father?"  
(c) She said to him, "Are you John's father?"  
(d) She asked him if he was John's father.
7. I wish I knew more people. (End: "...people!")
- (a) If I could know more people !  
(b) If I would be able to know more people !  
(c) I wish to know more people !  
(d) If only I knew more people!
8. This is the best movie I have ever watched. (Replace 'best' with 'better')
- (a) This is a better movie than any other one I have ever watched.  
(b) This movie is not better than any other movie I have ever watched.  
(c) This movie is more better than any other movies I have ever watched.  
(d) This movie is better than any other movie I have ever watched.

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