



**N. L. Dalmia**  
**High School**

ICSE - ISC  
ISO 9001:2015

**FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

**Class : X**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Marks : 80 / Pgs 5**

**Date : 15/11/2019**

**Time : 2 hr**

*Answer to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will not be allowed to write in 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 for parts of questions are given in brackets ( ).*

**Q1) Write a composition (300-350) words on any one of the following: (20)**

- You were punished for something you did not do. Write an account of what happened and how it was resolved. What did you learn from the experience?
- Describe an incident in your life, which you still recall with happiness.
- 'Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities often hinder achievement of good academic results.' Express your views for or against the statement.
- Write an original short story entitled, 'The Photograph'.
- Study the following picture. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be directly about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it, but there must be some clear connection between the picture and the composition.



**...contd on pg 2**

(10)

**Q2) Attempt any one of the following:**

- a) Write a letter to the Secretary of your Society Club requesting permission to hold a 'Donation Drive' in your society. Give him/her some details of the event and state why you think it's important to hold such a drive.
- b) You were a part of an organizing committee for an inter-school event which was very successful. You and the other committee members were congratulated and praised at the School Assembly by the Principal. Write a letter to your grandmother telling her about the event and how you felt on being praised and recognized.

**Q3) Notice and Email Writing:**

(5 + 5)

- a) You are the Secretary of the Dramatics Club of your School. On the occasion of celebrating 'Shakespeare's Day', your Club has organized a One-Act Play Competition for students of Grade 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Write a Notice inviting entries for the same.
- b) Write an email to a well-known actor, requesting him to judge the Competition and to also share a few words with the audience.

**Q4) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (20)**

Not all of us are blessed with **sprawling** mansions that have huge lawns. In fact, most of us live in small homes which may, if we are lucky, be on the ground floor of a large apartment block. But if you live on the top floor or if you have an independent home with a terrace to boot, then you may wish to express your sense of creativity in the shape and form of a terrace garden. Whatever be the case, here's how you can create a bit of magic around you.

Good gardens are the results of two things- great plants and an eye for design. And in order to make a design work, you must first know the answers to some basic questions. For example, you must know which place gets the first rays of the morning sun and which gets the sun later in the day. This becomes crucial in your selection of what plants will go where. After you have answered these questions it is time to think of a clear, intelligent **layout**- whether it is geometric or informal. Remember that circulation holds the key to garden design and that strong lines on the ground create a structure that is capable of holding together a loose collection of plants.

Flowers are **fleeting**- they come and go as seasons change- leaves, on the other hand, stay with us through any kind of weather. Be careful not to arrange pits with

Author of Venice

..contd on pg 3

the same kind of leaf texture together: the arrangement will get and look boring. Put dissimilar leaves next to each other: spiky against round, small against large- so that the plants stand out from one another.

A nutritious manure, proper spacing, good airflow between pots and a positioning that ensures the right amount of sunlight every day are all factors that must be taken into account.

To keep the shape as well as to produce good blooms, pruning is essential. Cut out old wood regularly and remember to water twice a day, especially in the hot weather: early morning and evening. Some plants like Bougainvillea do not require much watering- so do read up about plants you have before you begin treating all of them alike!

An important point to keep in mind is colour. Be careful of colour boredom- too much of one colour, especially white, makes for dead tones. It's nice to have a flow of colour with the right accents and high notes. If you have a wall on one side of your terrace, you could go in for a creeper that spreads all across it to form a 'living wall'. Or you could use the space for hanging flower baskets. A bank of bougainvillea climbing over the wall is another good idea. Large containers on one side of the terrace could be home to miniature and patio roses. Or indeed showcase smaller plants such as alyssum and pansies. You could have a series of pots containing flowers which could be placed on stands at different levels. What looks marvellous is a cluster of assorted palms surrounded by pots of prickly cactus and the whole effect finished off with a selection of shallow pots with colourful plants in them. Very eye-catching indeed! The possibilities are endless.

**(a) Give the meanings of the following words as used in the passage.**  
**One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.**

(3)

- i. Sprawling
- ii. Layout
- iii. Fleeting

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

- i. What types of houses do most of us live in? (1)
- ii. What should be kept in mind in keeping leaves in an interesting order? (2)
- iii. What are the writer's views on the pattern of colour? (2)
- iv. How should pots be used in the terrace garden? (2)
- v. What looks marvellous on the terrace? (2)

...contd on pg 4

C) In not more than 50 words of your own, describe the essentials of a terrace garden. How can such a garden be made more beautiful and interesting. (8)

**Q5) a) Complete the extract by filling in the appropriate form of the verbs given in the brackets:**

Example: was(0)

(4)

In the entire village Raki (0) \_\_\_\_ (be) the first to get up. Even the dog, a large black mongrel (1) \_\_\_\_ (call) Raja, was asleep in a corner of a dark room, (2) \_\_\_\_ (curl) up near the embers of last night's fire. Raki's tousled head (3) \_\_\_\_ (emerge) from his blanket. He (4) \_\_\_\_ (rub) the sleep from his eyes and (5) \_\_\_\_ (sit) up. Then he (6) \_\_\_\_ (crawl) towards the loud ticking that (7) \_\_\_\_ (come) from his little alarm clock that (8) \_\_\_\_ (stand) on the shelf in the wall.

**b) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition:**

(4)

1. The little girl burst \_\_\_\_ tears of joy when her kitten was found.
2. One should not put up \_\_\_\_ bad manners.
3. Shankar waited \_\_\_\_ the bus stop for over an hour.
4. The thief jumped \_\_\_\_ the wall and escaped.
5. Soma sat \_\_\_\_ the fire to warm herself.
6. The mouse hid \_\_\_\_ the floor boards.
7. Shanti came \_\_\_\_ many new recipes in the Cookery book that her aunt gave her.
8. The twins were too tired of being mistaken \_\_\_\_ each other.

**c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.**

(4)

1. The king died. His eldest son came to the throne.
2. He does well. He is nervous at the start.
3. Marco Polo made many discoveries. They were wonderful.
4. The man is a crook. We met him in the market.

**d) Rewrite 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.**

(8)

1. As soon as Harish was called on stage, his friends began to applaud.

(Begin with: No sooner)

...contd on pg 5

2. Tom said, "I want to visit my friends today."  
(Begin with: Tom said that)
3. If Jane spends more time reading books, her language skills will improve.  
(Rewrite: Using 'Unless')
4. My brother rarely spends his evenings at home.  
(Begin with: Seldom)
5. Rohan was so terrified of being left alone in the house that he started screaming.  
(Begin with: So)
6. The masons are building a house.  
(End with: .....the mason)
7. In spite of being warned about the storm, the fishermen went out to sea.  
(Begin with: Despite)
8. Suresh will come only under compulsion.  
*allowance*  
(Use: compelled)

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