

MANECKJI COOPER EDUCATION TRUST SCHOOL
JUHU, MUMBAI-400049

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION - JANUARY 2019

Std. X

Date: 08/01/2019

Subject: English Language

Time: 2 hours

Marks: 80

Answers to this Paper must be written on a 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 []
You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1
and 20 minutes in answering Question 2*

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]

- a) You will be leaving school soon. As you look back at the years spent in school, which moments will you cherish and carry with you always.
- b) Write an original story beginning with the words: "I was running desperately down the deserted road and as I turned to look....."
- c) Describe a birthday party organized by you, as a surprise for a close friend. Give details of the plans and how you implemented them.
- d) 'All human beings are basically good.' Argue either for or against the statement.
- e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and the composition.



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Question 2.

[Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.]

[10]

Select ONE of the following:

- a) Write a letter to the Secretary of the housing society where you live that you have noticed the children of the complex misusing the lift very often. Give details of the misuse and suggest ways in which this problem can be solved.
- b) One day you found an injured creature (bird/animal) abandoned on the roadside near your school. Write a letter to a friend telling him/her how you cared for it and what you plan to do once it gets well.

Question 3.

- a) The Social Welfare Club of your school has organized a visit to an Old Age Home. As the Secretary of the club, write a notice for the school notice board requesting the students of Std. IX and X to give their names as volunteers. Also inform them that fifty students will be chosen on first come, first served basis. [5]
- b) Send an email to the Principal of your school requesting him/her to make arrangements for the transport and snacks for the fifty student-volunteers who would be visiting the Old Age Home. [5]

Question 4.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions [a], [b] and [c] that follow.

Back in 1931, a young man about 20 years of age took a walking tour in the rural province of Provence, in Southern France. Provence was a rather barren and *desolate* area at the time, as it had been almost totally devoid of trees due to overcutting and intensive agriculture. The soil had then been washed away, as there were no trees to hold it in place. The whole region had become barren and dry. Little farming was being done now because of its poor condition. The villages were old and run-down, and most of the villagers had deserted the countryside. Even the wildlife had fled, as without trees the protective undergrowth had thinned, food was scarce, and few streams remained.

The young hiker stopped one night at the humble cottage of a shepherd, who, although gray-haired and in his fifties, was still very strong and stalwart. The young man spent the night there, enjoying the shepherd's kind hospitality, and ended staying several days with him. The visitor observed with some curiosity that the shepherd spent his evening hours sorting nuts by lamplight- acorns, hazelnuts, chestnuts and others. He very carefully examined them and culled out the bad ones, and when he finished his evening's work, he put the good nuts in a knapsack. Then as he led his sheep to graze the next day, he would plant the nuts along the way. While his sheep were pasturing in one with earth. Then he would walk several paces more, push his staff into the dry ground, and drop another nut. He spent all his daylight hours walking over the region of Provence as he grazed his sheep, each day covering a different area where there were few trees planting nuts.

Watching this the young man wondered what in the world this shepherd was trying to do, and he finally asked him. The shepherd replied, "I'm planting trees".

"But why?" the young visitor asked, "It will be years and years before these trees ever get to where they could do any good! You might not even live long enough to see them grow!"

The shepherd replied, "Yes, but someday they'll do somebody some good and they'll help to restore this dry land. I may never see it, but perhaps my children will."

The young man marveled at the shepherd's foresight, vision and unselfishness, that he was willing to prepare the land for future generations, even though he might never see the result or reap the benefits himself.

Twenty years later, when in his forties, the hiker once again visited the same area, he was *astounded* at what he saw. One great valley was completely covered with beautiful natural forest of all kinds of trees. They were young trees, of course, but trees nevertheless. Life had sprung forth all over the valley! The grass had grown much greener, the shrubbery and the wildlife had returned, the soil was moist again, and the farmers were again cultivating their crops.

He wondered what had happened to the old shepherd, and to his amazement found that he was still alive, hale and hearty, still living in his little cottage and still sorting nuts each evening. The visitor said he was amazed at the change, not only in the beautiful trees, but also in the revived agriculture, the *renewed* wildlife, and the beautiful lush grass and shrubbery. The little farms were thriving, and the villagers seemed to have come to life again. What a contrast from when he had visited there 20 years before, when the villagers had been run down and abandoned! Now all was thriving, just because of one man's foresight, one man's diligence, one man's patience, one man's sacrifice, one man's faithfulness, just to do what one man could do, day by day, day in and day out for a number of years.

a) Give the meaning of each of the following as used in the passage. One word answers or a short phrase will be accepted: [3]

- i. desolate
- ii. astounded
- iii. renewed

b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

- i. Why was Provence a barren, desolate area and devoid of wildlife? [2]
- ii. Which behaviour of the shepherd aroused the hiker's curiosity when he stayed with him? [2]
- iii. What did the hiker ask the shepherd and what was the shepherd's reply? [2]
- iv. In what way was the hiker impressed by the shepherd? [3]

c) In not more than 50 words of your own describe Provence when the hiker first visited it and the transformation he observed when he revisited it twenty years later. [8]

Question 5.

a) In the following passage, fill each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Example: (0) looked

The shiper (0) looked at his enemy (1) (fall) and he (2) (shudder). The lust of battle (3) (die) in him. He was (4) (fill) with remorse. The sweat stood out in beads on his forehead. (5) (weak) by his wound and the long summer of (6) (fast) and watching on the roof, he (7) (feel) sick at the sight of the shattered body of his dead enemy. His teeth chattered and he began to mutter senselessly to himself, (8) (curse) the war.

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

- i. This piece of curtain material is nine feet _____ five in length.
- ii. I was late for school today as my bus broke _____ on the highway.
- iii. He met me _____ my arrival in London.
- iv. The cyclist was let _____ with a small fine for riding without lamps.
- v. There is honour _____ thieves.
- vi. The boy ran _____ the thief who had stolen the wallet.
- vii. Don't sit outside _____ the cold.
- viii. I have found a friend _____ Rahul.

c) Join the following sentences without using and, but or so.

[4]

- i. The old man was carrying a basket. It was full of mangoes.
- ii. I had no money. I could not give any away.
- iii. I like chocolate. I like ice cream.
- iv. Rani reached the spot. We were to meet there.

d) Re-write the following sentences, according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that maybe necessary but do not change the meaning of the sentence.

[8]

- i. As soon as the film star entered the mall, he was mobbed by his fans.
(Begin: No sooner.....)
- ii. If he does not hurry, he won't catch the train.
(Rewrite using: 'Unless')
- iii. It is too late for us to cancel the hotel bookings.
(Use: 'so.....that')
- iv. Soham is not as clever as his twin brother.
(Change the Degree)
- v. All his friends laughed at him when he toppled into the pool.
(Change the Voice)
- vi. Only he could complete the marathon.
(Begin: None.....)
- vii. Only those students who will work hard will succeed.
(Rewrite using 'success')
- viii. As soon as the band began to play, the students started the march past.
(Begin: Hardly.....)

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