



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2015 - 2016

Subject: English Language

Date: January 6, 2016

Std.: X A

Time: 2 Hours

(Plus 15 minutes reading time)

Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- All answers must be written on the separate answer booklet provided.
- Attempt all four questions.
- You are advised to spend no more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.
- This paper has 4 questions on 6 pages.
- The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets. []

Question 1

Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following:

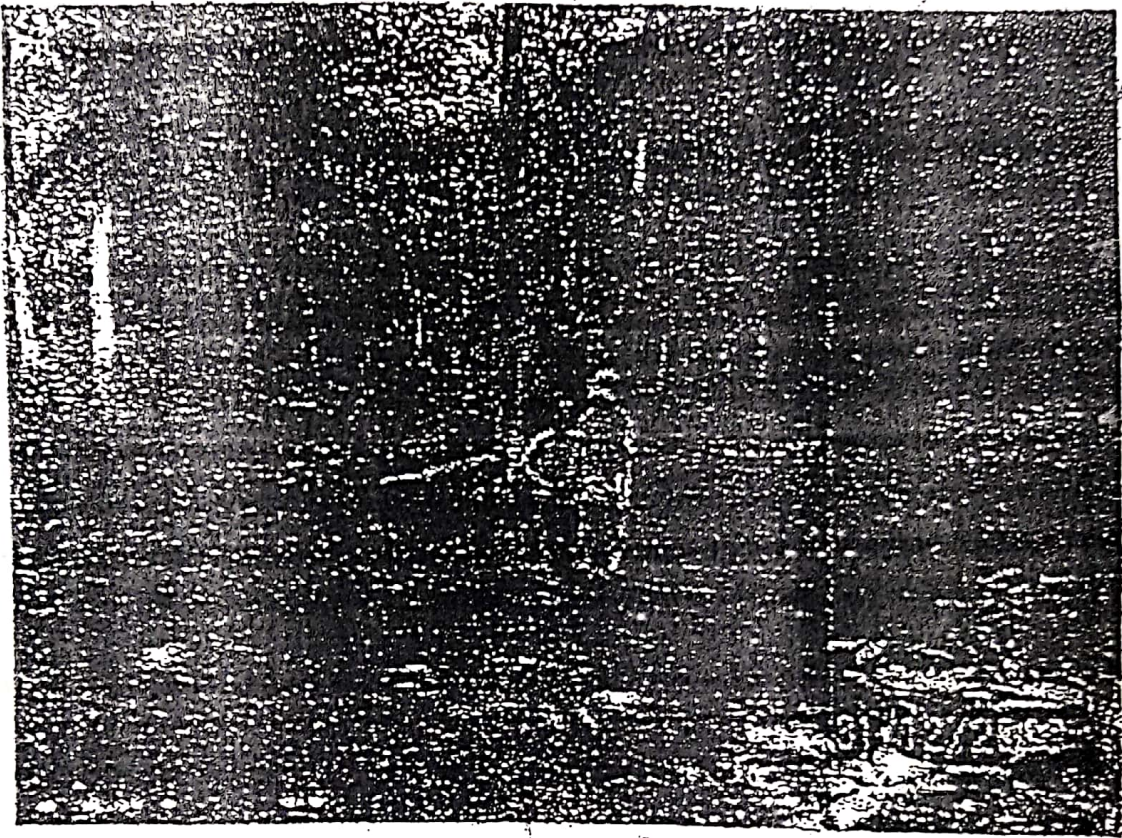
[25]

- Describe the street that leads to your home. Mention also what you like the most about it.
- Narrate an early memory about writing or reading that you recall vividly. Then explain why this event is significant to you now.
- Write an original story that begins :
"It was a dreary night of November when Aunt Emily sat down having worked hard for nearly three hours..."
- 'It is ethical not to eat meat' Write your views either for or against the topic.
- Study the picture, on the next page carefully and write a story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you.



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However, there should be clear connection between the picture and your writing.



Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question)

[10]

Select one of the following:-

You have won two complimentary tickets for an entertainment programme. Write a letter to a friend inviting him/her to accompany you. Mention why you feel it will be an enjoyable experience.

OR

Write a letter to the manager of a leather shoe factory, requesting permission for your friends and you to visit the factory on a working day in December.

Question 3

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Since both of Switzerland's national products, snow and chocolate, melt," said British humourist Alan Coren "the cuckoo clock was invented to give the tourists something solid to remember it by." The



alpine snow has been there from time immemorial, but we hear that the chocolate industry is completing only its first hundred years next month, and plans are underway to celebrate it as a sweet centenary. Chocolate might have had its origins as a sweet beverage in the Montezuan court of Mexico, but it found its way to Europe, along with Columbus and the Spanish conquistadors, and made Switzerland its second home. The chocolate industry in this landlocked nation soon left its impress on Europe, and now intends to celebrate by leaving behind its stamp in people's minds.

What better to generate sweet memories than a postage stamp which not only displays an unwrapped chocolate slab, but actually even smells of chocolate? We hear that this is a pioneering experiment in which chocolate scent will be sealed in tiny capsules in the stamp, and to release the aroma, you just have to rub lightly. It will be a 53-cent stamp of Switzerland on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Chocosuisse, the industry's federation. The chocolate business might go from strength to strength, but we hear the sweet experiment will also be the swansong of the stamp manufacturing industry, which is closing after 70 years by year-end. Vevey village in Switzerland is known for two products – Nestle's chocolates and Charlie Chaplin's film studios both of which earned worldwide fame, even while remaining semi-urban. As a people, the Swiss dislike being identified with the "Gnomes of Zurich" who are mostly bankers and unsmiling businessmen. Switzerland has been neutral, peaceful and democratic for many centuries now. Hence Orson Welles in the movie 'The Third Man' had a dig that 500 years of brotherly love in Switzerland has only produced the cuckoo clock, while bloodshed and mayhem in medieval Italy produced Michelangelo, Da Vinci and others. Stamps also have an interesting story from Eastern Europe during the communist days. A dictator demanded of his postmaster



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why people were not using the stamps bearing his head as impress. The postmaster said people complained that the stamps don't stick to envelopes. The story goes that the dictator stormed one day into the post office, demanded his stamps, spat on the reverse side and showed triumphantly that the stamps did stick. The postmaster whispered lamely, "Sir, the people spit on the other side, hence the problem". Chocolate stamps face no such problem.

- (a) Give another word or phrase for the following words in the passage: [3]
- 1) impress;
 - 2) swansong;
 - 3) mayhem.
- (b) Answer the following briefly in your own words:
- i) Do you think Alen Colin was right in his remark about Switzerland? Why? [2]
 - ii) How did the Swiss plan to celebrate the centenary and make it memorable? [2]
 - iii) Why does the author call the celebration a 'pioneering experiment'? [2]
 - iv) What route did chocolate take to enter Europe? [2]
 - v) What kind of a place would you deduce Zurich to be? [2]
 - vi) How was the postmaster's remark humorous? [2]
- (c) In not more than 60 words, write about the centenary celebrations in Switzerland. [8]
- (d) Give a suitable title to the passage in (c) and give a reason to justify your choice. [2]



Question 4

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

Example (0) spending

After (0) (spend) three hours (1) (endure) the long lines, surly clerks and inane regulations at the department of motor vehicles, I (2) (stop) at a toyshop to pick up a gift for my son. I (3) (bring) my selection – a baseball bat – to the cash register. "Cash or credit?" the clerk (4) (ask). "Cash," I (5) (snap). Then (6) (apologize) for my rudeness, I (7) (explain), "I've just spent the afternoon at the motor vehicle bureau."

"Shall I gift wrap the bat?" the clerk asked sweetly. "Or, are you (8) (go) back there?"

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words : [4]

- i) Her parents lived _____ Delhi.
- ii) Joe's parents are sick _____ his behaviour.
- iii) Colonel congratulated the soldiers _____ their victory.
- iv) The planet was seen _____ the telescope.
- v) The news of his promotion came _____ the next day.
- vi) Jai is not afraid _____ the consequences.
- vii) Mihir rushed _____ the class as he was late.
- viii) The school is famous _____ its sports achievements.

- (c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using 'and', 'but' or 'so'. [4]

- i) The feast began. We were then all very merry.



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- ii) They will send Avi to school. They will send his sister to school.
- iii) The proposal is quite unreasonable. The leaders saw this. It cannot be accepted.
- iv) ✎ I looked out of the window. My objective was to see the green fields.

(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to instructions [8]
given after each, and make other changes that may be
necessary, without changing the meaning of each sentence : -

- i) He gladly bore all the difficulties.
(Begin: All...)
- ii) Rushil seemed more cheerful than any of his companions.
(Change the degree.)
- iii) No sooner said than done.
(Begin: As soon as...)
- iv) The playground is so far off that a young boy cannot go there on foot.
(Rewrite using the adverb 'too'.)
- v) I am sorry that he behaved so rudely with your father.
(Use 'rudeness' instead of 'rudely')
- vi) Shame on him who behaves so!
(Rewrite without the exclamation mark.)
- vii) Gulliver could hear his watch ticking in his pocket.
(Use a question mark.)
- viii) Portia was not unaware of the seriousness of the situation.
(Remove 'not'.)
