

ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION
Sample Question Paper – 2
English Paper – 1

Time: 2 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all five questions
6. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].
7. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

QUESTION 1.

(i) Recently, it was in the news that a hurricane hit USA and around 13 states were affected. Being the Head Girl of your school, draft a notice for the students and staff appealing for donations of relief products like clothes, money, books and other articles in not more than 50 words.

Answer: Attention students and staff,

A devastating hurricane has hit the USA, affecting 13 states. We urge you to help those in need by donating relief supplies. Please bring clothes, money, books, and other essential items to the school office by [date]. Your generosity will make a significant difference.

Thank you, [Your Name] Head Girl

(ii) Write an email to the principal of the neighbouring school informing him of the event and requesting him to send a team to participate. You are Arpita Choudhary, secretary of St. Andrews School.

Answer:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in [Event Name] at St. Andrews School

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to inform you about an exciting event we are organizing at St. Andrews School. As part of our efforts to foster collaboration and friendly competition between neighboring schools, we are hosting [Event Name] on [Date] at [Time] at our school premises.

We would be honored to have your school participate in this event. We believe it will be a wonderful opportunity for students from both our schools to engage, learn, and showcase their talents. The event will include [briefly describe the event format, activities, or competitions involved].

We kindly request you to send a team from your school to participate. Please let us know the number of students and faculty members who would be attending so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

We look forward to your school's participation and hope to make this event a memorable one for all involved.

Thank you for considering our invitation. If you have any questions or need further details, feel free to contact me at [Your Contact Information].

Warm regards,
Arpita Choudhary
Secretary, St. Andrews School
[Your Contact Information]

QUESTION 2.

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on it.)

Select any one of the following.

(i) Write a letter to the Director of the Archaeological Survey of India complaining about the damage caused to a historical monument in your city due to negligence.

Answer:

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Date]

The Director

Archaeological Survey of India

[Address]

New Delhi, India

Subject: Complaint Regarding Damage to Historical Monument Due to Negligence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention the unfortunate and alarming condition of the historical monument, [Name of the Monument], located in [Location], which is an important part of our cultural heritage. It has come to my notice that the monument has been severely damaged due to negligence and a lack of proper maintenance, which I feel requires immediate intervention by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The monument, known for its historical and architectural significance, has been left exposed to the elements without sufficient protective measures. Over time, I have observed cracks in the structure, fading carvings, and the accumulation of dirt and debris. Recently, some parts of the monument have started crumbling, and there are visible signs of erosion on the stonework, which could lead to irreversible damage if not addressed urgently.

Moreover, the surrounding area, which was once a well-maintained site, has also suffered from neglect. The garden, pathways, and fencing that once added to the monument's grandeur are now overgrown with weeds, and the area is littered with garbage.

I kindly request the Archaeological Survey of India to take prompt action to assess the damage and carry out necessary restoration and conservation work. It is vital that immediate steps be taken to prevent further deterioration of this irreplaceable monument, as it holds immense value for the cultural and historical heritage of our city.

I look forward to your urgent attention to this matter and the steps that will be taken to safeguard this historical monument.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]

(ii) Write a letter to Mr. RP Lal, a member of the club, appreciating him for the services rendered to the Lions Club International over past one year. You are PC Jain, President of the Club.

Answer:

Lions Club International

[Club Name]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

[Date]

Mr. R.P. Lal

[Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

Dear Mr. Lal,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. As the President of the Lions Club, it gives me immense pleasure to take this opportunity to formally appreciate and acknowledge the exceptional services you have rendered to our esteemed organization over the past year.

Your unwavering dedication and commitment to the values of the Lions Club International have made a significant impact, not only within our club but in the community at large. Your leadership, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in successfully organizing several initiatives that have contributed immensely to our mission of serving others.

The success of our community projects, especially the recent health camps and educational programs, is a testament to your hard work and leadership. Your ability to mobilize resources, coordinate activities, and rally fellow members around important causes has set a remarkable example of selfless service.

Moreover, your infectious enthusiasm and positive attitude have been an inspiration to all of us. You have consistently gone above and beyond, volunteering your time and expertise, and have proven to be an invaluable asset to our team. Your contributions have certainly enhanced the reputation of our club, and we are proud to have you as a member of our Lions family.

On behalf of all the members of the Lions Club International, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your dedication and service. We look forward to continuing to work alongside you in the year ahead, as we strive to make an even greater impact.

Wishing you continued success and good health.

Warm regards,
PC Jain
President, Lions Club International
[Club Name]

QUESTION 3.

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

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

(i) You went to the bank one morning for some work. While you were there, some robbers entered the bank to rob it but they were caught red-handed due to your presence of mind. Describe the robbery in your own words. Give it a suitable title.

Answer:

Title: The Bank Heist Thwarted

It was a quiet morning when I walked into the bank to handle some personal business. The air inside was calm, the usual hum of the machines and the soft chatter of the bank staff setting the routine scene. I headed toward the customer service counter, waiting for my turn when the door swung open with an unusual force. Three men walked in, their movements swift but calculated. At first glance, they appeared to be ordinary customers, but something in their eyes told a different story.

As I glanced around, I noticed that their actions were out of place. One of them was unusually tense, his hand brushing the bulge beneath his jacket, and that

was when I realized something was wrong. I immediately focused my attention on their every movement. The two men flanked the counter while the third, wearing a cap pulled low over his face, subtly approached the nearest bank teller.

Within moments, the man in front of the teller pulled out a small gun and waved it toward the staff, shouting commands in a voice that was too urgent to be calm. The tellers froze, their faces draining of color. My heart raced as I processed the situation, but I knew I had to act quickly. I subtly pulled out my phone and, while trying to remain as calm as possible, texted the police, providing the bank's address and describing the scene.

The robbers were too focused on their demands to notice my actions. I kept my eyes fixed on them, trying not to make them aware of my growing suspicion. One of the other customers in the bank quietly took out their phone and started recording, while the third robber stood near the exit, keeping watch.

It wasn't long before the sound of sirens wailed in the distance. The robbers, now realizing that something was off, tried to make a break for it. But by then, the police had surrounded the building. As they stormed in, the robbers were arrested before they could escape.

Thanks to quick thinking and the help of others in the bank, what could have been a terrifying robbery was averted without anyone getting hurt. It was a day I would never forget—an example of how a moment of calm and attention can make all the difference.

(ii) “Technology has made us overly dependent on its existence” Express your views either for or against this statement.

Answer: Against the Statement: Technology has not made us overly dependent on its existence.

While it's true that technology has become deeply integrated into our lives, claiming that it has made us overly dependent oversimplifies the issue. Technology, in essence, is a tool designed to make life more efficient, accessible, and innovative. Rather than rendering us helpless without it, it has expanded our capabilities and provided us with opportunities to enhance our lives in numerous ways.

Firstly, technology has empowered individuals with tools that have improved productivity, communication, and creativity. From smartphones to advanced medical equipment, technology facilitates tasks that were once labor-intensive or inaccessible. For instance, communication across long distances, whether through video calls or social media, has brought people closer, enriching relationships and allowing collaboration on a global scale. These innovations aren't just indulgences; they are tools that offer freedom and flexibility. People no longer need to be confined to specific places or times to interact, work, or create.

Furthermore, technology has been a key driver in solving some of the world's most pressing challenges. In healthcare, advancements like telemedicine, AI-driven diagnostics, and gene editing are saving lives and improving treatment outcomes. In education, online learning platforms have made education more accessible to people around the world, particularly in remote or underserved areas. These breakthroughs are not signs of dependency, but rather of progress.

Even if we look at the broader societal changes, technology has not made us dependent; it has provided opportunities for growth and adaptation. Human resilience and adaptability have always been central traits, and technology has merely complemented this. The fact that many people can function without certain tech tools (for instance, by choosing to go offline or use technology minimally) shows that we retain the ability to thrive without excessive reliance on any single tool.

Lastly, dependency suggests a lack of control or choice, but technology offers just the opposite. The increasing availability of tools to control and customize our experiences—whether through automation, personalization, or alternative forms of tech use—demonstrates that technology enhances rather than restricts human agency.

In conclusion, technology has not made us overly dependent. It has, instead, broadened our horizons, increased our capabilities, and allowed us to adapt to an ever-changing world. The focus should be on using technology responsibly and thoughtfully, rather than assuming it has a negative influence on our independence.

(iii) You have been living in your ancestral home since birth. It is being acquired by the government because the Metro line has to pass through the area. Narrate the incident and describe your feelings about moving out of this house.

Answer: I have lived in this house my entire life. It was where I was born, where I learned to walk, and where countless memories were created. The walls of this ancestral home hold stories of my family—generations before me have lived, loved, and laughed within its embrace. The old wooden floors creak with history, the garden is alive with the fruits of years of labor, and every nook and cranny feels like a piece of me. But now, everything is changing. The government has decided to acquire this property for the Metro line that will pass through the area.

At first, it was hard to believe. The notice arrived with official language, numbers, and dates, but it didn't feel real. It still doesn't, in many ways. The thought of leaving this house, my home, is an unsettling one. The emotions are difficult to articulate. There's a deep sadness, a kind of grief, for the place that has always been my sanctuary. As a child, I ran through these rooms, exploring every corner. As an adult, it became the steady anchor in my life. This house has seen me through every high and low, and now, I have to say goodbye.

The news feels like an uprooting. It's not just the bricks and mortar I'm losing; it's the connection to my past, my heritage, the family memories that I can never bring with me. I imagine walking out of the front door for the last time, knowing I'll never return. I'll miss the familiar hum of the neighborhood, the distant sound of laughter from family gatherings, the scent of the garden in the early mornings.

There's a sense of uncertainty about the future now. I feel conflicted about leaving—grateful for the opportunity to start fresh, but heartbroken to abandon the place that shaped me. The thought of making a new home, while necessary, doesn't quite ease the ache of leaving the old one behind.

(iv) Write an original short story entitled 'A Silver Key'.

Answer: It was a very stormy night, with the wind howling and the rain falling incessantly. A traveller had got down at the town's bus stand and was looking for a place to stay. Then, he saw the signboard of a dharmshala just a few yards

down the road so he went there to seek shelter. He was highly disappointed to find the door locked from inside. However, he could see a light shining inside through a closed window. So, he knocked loudly on the door. Someone, who the traveller assumed was the keeper of the dharmshala, called out from inside, "I am sorry; I am unable to open the door because I have lost the key."

The traveller replied, "But, I want to stay the night here. I am totally soaked due to the rain. Please allow me inside." The keeper replied, "I'm sorry but the door can only be unlocked with a silver key. Do you have a silver key?" The traveller, who was quite intelligent, understood what was wanted of him. He put his hand inside his pocket and brought out a silver one rupee coin. He pushed this coin under the front door. Sure enough, it brought the desired result. Soon, the front door opened and the traveller was allowed to enter.

The dharmshala keeper was standing at the door with a smug smile on his face. He said, "Welcome to the only dharmshala in this town." As soon as the traveller got inside, he thanked the keeper and requested him to bring in his suitcase. The keeper went outside to get it. As soon as the keeper stepped outside, the traveller shut the door and locked it. The keeper shouted from outside, "What kind of joke is this? Open the door immediately!"

"It is not a joke", answered the traveller. "I am sorry, I have lost the key. The door can be opened only with a silver key." The keeper had to push the silver coin under the door. The traveller, only after getting his rupee back, let the dishonest man in.

(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Answer: A Cruise at sea goes wrong

The given picture shows a ship sinking in the sea. This is a real incident which I encountered when my family decided to take a holiday by cruising around the Mediterranean Sea to know more about Europe at a leisurely pace. The cruise ship MV Sharda had started from Rome carrying over 400 passengers around the islands in the Mediterranean Sea for a 10-day trip. As it was my first time on a cruise ship, I was rather apprehensive about falling seasick. However, my parents said that I would get used to sea soon enough and would enjoy the trip. In addition, I would learn a lot about European history and visit some of the historic places which I had so far seen only in History books. We absorbed much of history and culture with each passing day of our trip. On the 7th day of the trip, we docked at the port of Aegina. It was a warm and sunny day; we were eating lunch in a restaurant on the upper deck. I finished my pudding and went to the bridge of the ship to look around.

Suddenly, I heard loud screams and there was a violent jerk such that I lost my balance and fell hitting my head on the deck. It appeared as if something heavy had struck the ship. Soon, the ship started to tilt and go down. I was suddenly reminded of a similar scene in the movie 'Titanic'. So, I quickly stood up and went down to the restaurant just below. The door was jammed and I had to kick it open. Everything was in a mess; some tables had fallen down and water was streaming in. Suddenly, I heard the captain's voice shouting for everyone to evacuate the ship immediately. Luckily, as we were docked, we could climb out on the jetty where we were berthed.

QUESTION 4.

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

Example :

There (0) (be) some confusion in the hall when I entered there.

Answer : (0) was

The car (1) (slow) down at the curve. There (2) (be) a large crowd at the place. I (3) (get) down from the car to see what (4) (happen) A man was (5) (lay) on the road injured. He was (6) (shout) for help but (7) (unfortunate) no one was willing to (8) (come) forward and rush him to the hospital.

Answer: (1) slowed

(2) was

(3) got

(4) had happened

(5) lying

(6) Shouting

(7) unfortunately

(8) come

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

(a) The steps are in ____ of the drawing room door.

(b) The basement is ____ the drawing room of the house.

(c) The people are sitting ____ the table ____ the dining room.

(d) The children's bedroom is ____ the attic ____ the third floor.

(e) The tools are hung ____ the wooden nail board.

(f) The wooden nail board is ____ the basement.

(g) The washing machine is ____ the main bathroom.

(h) The stairs to the roof are ____ the bathroom ____ the second floor.

Answer: (a) front

(b) under/below/beneath

(c) at, in

(d) under, on

(e) on

(f) in

(g) in

(h) beside, on

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

Choose the correct option.

1. I went to the clinic yesterday. I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

- (a) Since I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.
- (b) Whenever I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.
- (c) When I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.
- (d) As I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

Answer: (c) When I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

2. Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest. His family protested outside the priest's house.

- (a) Because Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.
- (b) Although Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.
- (c) Whenever Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.
- (d) While Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

Answer: (a) Because Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

3. Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer. Her mother wanted her to become a doctor.

- (a) Her mother wanted her to become a doctor yet Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer.
- (b) Although Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer, her mother wanted her to

become a doctor.

(c) Since Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer, her mother wanted her to become a doctor.

(d) Her mother wanted her to a doctor despite Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer.

Answer: (b) Although Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer, her mother wanted her to become a doctor.

4. Mihir worked day and night on his project. The supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(a) Though Mihir worked day and night on his project yet the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(b) Although Mihir worked day and night on his project, but the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(c) Though Mihir worked day and night on his project, the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Though Mihir worked day and night on his project, the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence.

1. A father is wrong to scold his child without reason.

[Begin with: A father ought....]

(a) A father ought to scold his child without reason.

(b) A father ought not to scold her child without reason.

(c) A father ought not to scold his child without reasoning.

(d) A father ought not to scold his child without reason.

Answer: (d) A father ought not to scold his child without reason.

2. The day was so nice that we went on a picnic.

[Use : such]

(a) It was such a nice day that we went on a picnic.

(b) It was such a nice day than we went on a picnic.

- (c) The day was such nice that we went on a picnic.
- (d) The day was such nice than we went on a picnic.

Answer: (a) It was such a nice day that we went on a picnic.

3. They did not like to pay extra taxes.

[Use : objected]

- (a) They did not objected to paying extra taxes.
- (b) They objected to paying extra taxes.
- (c) They did object to paying extra taxes.
- (d) They did objected to paying extra taxes.

Answer: (b) They objected to paying extra taxes.

4. He locked the gate so that the dog wouldn't escape.

[Use : prevent]

- (a) He locked the gate for prevent the dog from escaping.
- (b) He locked the gate for prevent the dog from not escaping.
- (c) He locked the gate to prevent the dog from not escaping.
- (d) He locked the gate to prevent the dog from escaping.

Answer: (d) He locked the gate to prevent the dog from escaping.

5. I didn't hear from him for ten years. I received his e-mail.

[Rewrite using: when]

- (a) I hadn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.
- (b) I haven't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.
- (c) I didn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.
- (d) I didn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.

Answer: (a) I hadn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.

6. He really likes correcting her English.

[Use : pleasure]

- (a) He really likes pleasure in correcting her English.
- (b) There is pleasure for him correcting English.
- (c) He takes pleasure to correct her English.
- (d) He takes pleasure in correcting her English.

Answer: (d) He takes pleasure in correcting her English.

7. All I want you to do is to look after my dog.

[Use : care]

- (a) All I want you to do is to look care of my dog.
- (b) All I want you to do is to take care of my dog.
- (c) All I want you to do is care of my dog.
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) All I want you to do is to take care of my dog.

8. She started studying drama three years ago.

[Rewrite using : been]

- (a) She was been studying drama for three years.
- (b) She was been studied drama for three years.
- (c) She has been studying drama for three years.
- (d) All of the above

Answer: (c) She has been studying drama for three years.

QUESTION 5.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow

They pass me every day, on their way to school - boys and girls from the surrounding villages and the outskirts of the hill station. There are no school buses for these children : they walk.

For many of them, it's a very long walk to school.

Ranbir, who is ten, has to climb the mountain from his village, four miles distant and two thousand feet below the town level. He comes in all kinds of weathers wearing the same pair of cheap shoes until they have almost fallen apart.

Ranbir is a cheerful soul. He waves to me whenever he sees me at my window.

Sometimes he brings me cucumbers from his father's field. I pay him for the cucumbers; he uses the money for books or for small things needed at home.

Many of the children are like Ranbir - poor, but slightly better off than what their parents were at the same age. They cannot attend the expensive residential and private schools that abound here, but must go to the government-aided schools with only basic facilities. Not many of their parents managed to go to school. They spent their lives working in the fields or delivering milk in the hill station.

The lucky ones got into the army. Perhaps Ranbir will do something different when he grows up. He has yet to see a train but he sees planes flying over the mountains almost every day.

"How far can a plane go?", he asks.

"All over the world" I tell him. "Thousands of miles in a day, you can go almost anywhere."

"I'll go round the world one day" he vows. "I'll buy a plane and go everywhere!"

And maybe he will. He has a determined chin and a **defiant** look in his eye. Up to a few years ago, very few girls in the hills or in the villages of India went to school. They helped in the home until they were old enough to be married, which wasn't very old. But there are now just as many girls as there are boys going to school.

Bindra is something of an extrovert a confident fourteen-year-old who chatters away as she hurries down the road with her companions. Her father is a forest guard and knows me quite well : I meet him on my walks through the deodar woods behind Landour. And I had grown used to seeing Bindra almost every day. When she did not put in an appearance for a week, 30 I asked her brother if anything was wrong. "Oh, nothing," he says, "she is helping my mother cut grass. Soon the monsoon will end and the grass will dry up. So, we cut it now and store it for the cows in winter."

"And why aren't you cutting grass too?"

"Oh, I have a cricket match today" he says, and hurries away to join his teammates.

Unlike his sister, he puts pleasure before work! Cricket, once the game of the elite, has become the game of the masses. On any holiday, in any part of this

vast country, groups of boys can be seen making their way to the nearest field, or open patch of land, with bat, ball and any other cricketing gear that they can cobble together. Watching some of them play I am amazed at the quality of talent, at the finesse with which they bat or bowl.

Some of the local teams are as good, if not better than any from the private schools, where there are better facilities. But boys from these poor or lower middle-class families will never get the exposure that is necessary to bring them to the attention of those who select state or national teams. They will never get near enough to the men of influence and power. They must continue to play for the love of the game, or watch their more fortunate heroes' exploits on television.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided.

1. defiant (line 23)

- (a) the act of being rebellious
- (b) to be compliant
- (c) to be cooperative
- (d) to be tractable

Answer: (a) the act of being rebellious

2. elite (line 36)

- (a) middle class
- (b) upper or high class
- (c) proletariat
- (d) the masses

Answer: (b) upper or high class

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'ineptness'?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) finesse | (b) influence |
| (c) exposure | (d) fortunate |

Answer:: (a) finesse

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

(a) In what way was her brother different from Bindra?

Answer: Bindra's brother was different from her as he gave more importance to pleasure than that to work.

(b) How has the fate of girls changed?

Answer: The fate of the girls in these mountains has changed. Till a few years back, very few girls in the hills or in the villages went to school. They helped at home till they were old enough to be married but now a proportionate number of girls and boys went to school.

(c) What was Ranbir's ambition?

Answer: Ranbir's ambition was to buy a plane and go all over the world, flying in it. The planes flying over the mountains fascinated him and he too wanted to travel in them.

(d) In what way are children better off than their parents?

Answer: The children of the mountains are better off than their parents as they at least go to the government schools while their parents had not attended any school.

(e) Why does the author call the heroes on television 'fortunate'?

Answer: The narrator is amazed at the quality of talent which the village boys display while playing cricket.

(iv) In not more than 50 words, relate what difficulties the children face in their daily lives. How does the author feel about it?

Answer: The children living in remote areas face many difficulties due to lack of school buses, such as walking long distances, including climbing hills, walking without shoes during rainy season. Earlier, parents could not attend the school at all as they had to work for their survival. Girls, now attend the school on regular basis and yet, when it comes to helping in household or field work, they are found helping their mothers not the boys.