

**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**Sample Question Paper – 5**  
**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.**

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

**Select any one of the following.**

**(i) A friend who lives in another country has invited you to come and stay with him/her during your next holiday. You are too busy to accept the invitation.**

**Write a reply to your friend. In your letter,**

1. Thank him/her for the invitation
2. Explain why you cannot come
3. Describe to him/her what events have occurred in your family

**Answer: 1. Thank him/her for the invitation**

Dear [Friend's Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. First of all, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your kind invitation to visit you during my next holiday. It means so much to me that you would offer such a warm welcome, and I am genuinely touched by your thoughtfulness.

I have been dreaming of visiting [the country] for quite some time now, and the idea of spending time with you there sounds absolutely wonderful. I can already picture us exploring the sights together, enjoying the local culture, and catching up on everything we've missed. Your invitation is truly a generous one, and I can't thank you enough for thinking of me.

Unfortunately, due to my busy schedule at work and other commitments, I regret to inform you that I won't be able to accept your invitation this time. There are a number of responsibilities I need to attend to, and it would be difficult to take the time off. I'm really disappointed because I was looking forward to seeing you and experiencing your beautiful country.

I hope you understand, and I promise that I'll try to plan for a visit as soon as I can make time for it. In the meantime, I would love to stay in touch and hear all about what you've been up to. I truly hope that we can find a way to meet up soon, even if it's not during my upcoming holiday.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity, and I hope we'll have the chance to spend time together in the near future.

Warmest regards,  
[Your Name]

**(ii) You recently stayed in a 5-star hotel in Jaipur. The weather was very hot and the cooling system in the room was inadequate. Write a letter to the manager of the hotel.**

1. Give details of what went wrong
2. Explain what you had to do to overcome the problem at the time
3. Say what action you would like the manager to take

**Answer:**

[Your Name]  
[Your Address]  
[City, Postal Code]  
[Date]

The Manager,  
[Hotel Name]  
[Hotel Address]  
Jaipur, [Postal Code]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently had the opportunity to stay at your esteemed hotel during my visit to Jaipur. I chose your hotel because of its reputation for luxury and excellent service. However, I regret to inform you that my experience was marred by an issue with the cooling system in the room.

During my stay, I found the weather in Jaipur to be excessively hot, but the air conditioning in my room was inadequate. Despite setting the temperature at a comfortable level, the room remained uncomfortably warm, which made it difficult to rest and enjoy my stay. I tried adjusting the settings multiple times, but the system seemed to be malfunctioning or insufficient to cope with the external temperature.

To overcome the problem, I had no choice but to keep the windows open at night, which allowed some airflow but did not provide enough cooling. This made my room noisy, and I was unable to sleep properly due to the constant street sounds and heat.

Given the situation, I kindly request that you take immediate action to ensure that the air conditioning units in the hotel rooms are properly maintained and capable of handling extreme weather conditions. It would be greatly appreciated if you could offer a partial refund or a discount for the inconvenience I experienced.

I trust that you will take my concerns seriously and work towards providing a better experience for future guests.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
[Your Name]

## **QUESTION 2.**

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

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

**(i) Write an original story starting with the words 'It was a dark windy night.....'.**

### **Answer:**

It was a dark, windy night, the kind where the trees creaked like ancient voices, groaning under the weight of the storm. The moon, barely visible through the heavy clouds, cast a dim, eerie glow on the world below. In the small village of Brookhaven, the streets were deserted, the homes locked tight, and the only sound was the howl of the wind, rushing through the narrow alleys.

Lena, wrapped in a thick coat, walked briskly through the empty streets, her footsteps muffled by the thick layer of fallen leaves. Her breath formed small clouds



in the air as she quickened her pace, the chill in her bones urging her to hurry. She had to reach the old manor on the hill before the storm worsened.

The manor had stood abandoned for decades, its once grand structure now crumbling and forgotten. But tonight, something called Lena there. A strange, restless pull she couldn't ignore.

As she approached the manor, the wind picked up, sending a shiver down her spine. The large iron gates creaked open as if they had been waiting for her. The path to the front door was overgrown, but Lena pressed on, her heart pounding in her chest.

The door to the manor groaned as she pushed it open, the smell of mildew and dust filling her nose. She stepped inside, the air heavy with silence. The only sound was the faint ticking of an old clock in the corner of the room.

Suddenly, a voice broke the stillness—a whisper that seemed to come from everywhere and nowhere at once.

"Lena..."

She froze, her breath caught in her throat. The voice was familiar, though she couldn't place it. It beckoned her deeper into the manor, pulling her toward the darkness. She couldn't explain why, but she followed.

As she descended into the cold, shadowy basement, the door slammed shut behind her. And then, she saw it—her own reflection in an old, cracked mirror, but it wasn't her face staring back. It was someone else's.

**(ii) 'Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career.'**  
**Express your views for or against this statement.**

**Answer: Against the Statement:**

While academic excellence is often considered a significant factor in achieving career success, it is far from the only requirement. A successful career depends on a combination of various skills, attributes, and experiences that go beyond academic achievement.

Firstly, interpersonal skills, such as communication, teamwork, and emotional intelligence, are critical for professional growth. These "soft skills" allow individuals to effectively collaborate, resolve conflicts, and build relationships with colleagues and clients. In many careers, success hinges on the ability to connect with others, inspire trust, and demonstrate leadership, which cannot be solely gained through academic performance.

Moreover, work experience plays a vital role in shaping one's career. Practical knowledge acquired through internships, volunteer work, or part-time jobs equips individuals with real-world problem-solving abilities and a deeper understanding of the workplace. Experience allows one to develop industry-specific skills that academic learning may not provide. For example, a person might excel in theoretical knowledge but struggle to apply it in practical situations without prior work experience.

Adaptability and a willingness to learn are also essential. The modern workplace is constantly evolving, and individuals who can adapt to new technologies, methodologies, and market demands are often more successful than those who rely purely on academic qualifications. Continuous professional development, whether through on-the-job learning, workshops, or self-study, is critical for maintaining and enhancing one's career trajectory.

Additionally, personal qualities like resilience, creativity, and a strong work ethic often play a more significant role than academic excellence. People who demonstrate perseverance in the face of challenges, think outside the box, and remain committed to their goals often find success, even without top academic credentials.

**(iii) You have to go to your home town due to demise of your grandfather. Narrate your experience of travelling over a long distance (overnight) in an unreserved second class compartment.**

**Answer:** The news of my grandfather's demise came as a shock, and I had to rush back to my hometown immediately. Without much thought, I booked a train ticket in the unreserved second-class compartment. The journey, spanning an entire night, was long and exhausting, yet it gave me a lot of time to reflect on life, family, and memories.

I boarded the train at around 9:00 PM. The second-class compartment was overcrowded, with people pushing and shoving to find a spot. I managed to find a small space near the door where I stood, trying to settle into the rhythm of the train. The air was thick with the smell of sweat, food, and the faint odor of tobacco. Some passengers were already dozing off, while others were talking loudly, seemingly unaffected by the discomfort of the journey. A group of children, excited by the motion of the train, were laughing and playing in the aisle.

The rhythmic clatter of the train's wheels against the tracks, combined with the occasional announcements over the loudspeaker, kept me awake. As the night deepened, the compartment grew quieter, with more people falling asleep, some



leaning against the windows, others lying on the floor. The constant motion of the train made it hard to sleep, but I tried to rest my eyes, my thoughts constantly drifting back to my grandfather.

Around midnight, the train made a brief halt at a small station. The noise of vendors selling tea and snacks broke the stillness, and the brief stop provided a small moment of relief for the passengers. I got down for a few minutes, stretching my legs and taking in the cool night air. As we resumed our journey, I saw the dim lights of the passing towns, each blur of motion a reminder of how far I was from home.

By morning, the fatigue had set in, but the sight of the rising sun and the familiar landscape as we approached my hometown filled me with a sense of urgency and sorrow. The long, uncomfortable journey had finally ended, but it was just the beginning of a new chapter, one marked by loss and the journey of saying goodbye.

**(iv) You recently read a novel which was quite engrossing due to different characters. Describe your favourite (character and give reason why you like this character.**

**Answer:**

In the novel I recently read, one character stood out to me due to their complexity and the journey they underwent throughout the story. My favorite character is *Elias*, a conflicted yet deeply human figure who embodies both strength and vulnerability in equal measure.

Elias begins the story as a soldier in a ruthless empire, trapped in a life he never chose but feels compelled to follow. He is bound by duty and fear, constantly questioning the morality of the empire he serves. This inner conflict made him a fascinating character to follow, as I could sense his struggle with the choices he was forced to make. What drew me to Elias was his inherent kindness that remained intact despite the cruelty surrounding him. His willingness to help others, even when it jeopardized his own safety, demonstrated a selflessness that is rare in the harsh world he inhabits.

As the story progresses, Elias's development as a character is shaped by his relationships with those around him. His loyalty to his friends and his growing sense of justice are powerful motivators, and he begins to fight for the freedom and safety of others, even if it means going against the very empire he was sworn to protect. His transformation from a soldier who blindly follows orders to a man who questions everything and seeks change is what makes him such a compelling figure.

What I admired most about Elias was his ability to evolve without losing the core of who he was. Despite all the suffering and challenges he faced, he never let bitterness take root. Instead, he embraced his flaws and found the courage to act in the face of fear, making him a symbol of hope and resilience.

In a world filled with morally gray characters, Elias's journey from confusion to clarity was not only inspiring but also profoundly human. His complexity, inner turmoil, and capacity for growth are why I found him to be the most compelling character in the novel.

**(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: Floods in our Village**

I live in a small village on the left bank of the Ghaghra River in Bahraich district. Every year, during the rainy season, our village is surrounded by the river water. So, we have built our houses on rocky ground much above the level of the surrounding areas. Last year, due to heavy rains, we were forced to evacuate our village by using boats as there were big sheets of water all around. It was a horrible sight. We went to our relatives' farm in the interior about 10 km away, where we were safe. On the way, we saw other villages submerged in water with people sitting on their rooftops waiting to be rescued. Some people were carrying their luggage in the boats sent by the government for moving the residents to safer places. The Indian Army had been



called out to help in the movement of people. The soldiers helped the elderly, the infirm and children to get into the boats safely.

The government officers had made an arrangement for a big relief camp on high ground. Most of the residents had been temporarily shifted there. A community kitchen was being run for the camp residents. Further, clean drinking water was available to save the camp residents from the possible attack of water-borne diseases. They were also given medical aid if required. The floods caused great loss to the people in the affected areas. The standing crops were completely washed away. In our village, nearly all the mud houses were washed away by the swift current of water. Hundreds of cattle were drowned.

When the water receded after about ten days, we returned to our village to find that some walls of our home were damaged by the swirling water. These walls required extensive repair. We applied for and received some funds from the government for repairing the walls, which was a great relief. We were also able to get a loan from the government for buying seeds and chemical fertilisers for the next crop. The government has promised us that this year an embankment will be constructed along the river banks near our village to prevent floods in future.

### **QUESTION 3.**

**(i) Your school is organising a donation drive for the underprivileged children of the slum areas near your school. As the Head Girl of your school, write a notice for your school notice board informing students about the event and inviting them to donate whatever they can to make the donation drive a success.**

**Answer:**

### **NOTICE**

#### **Donation Drive for Underprivileged Children**

Date: 11th December 2024

Dear Students,

As part of our school's commitment to social responsibility and community service, we are organizing a **Donation Drive** to support the underprivileged children living in the slum areas near our school. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need and extend a helping hand to children who do not have access to basic necessities.

**Event Details:**



- **Purpose:** To collect donations of clothing, books, stationery, toys, and other essential items for children in the slum areas.
- **Collection Dates:** From 15th December to 20th December 2024
- **Collection Boxes:** Will be placed in the school corridors, near the main entrance, and in the school library.

We encourage all students to participate in this noble cause by donating any items they can spare. It could be something as simple as gently used clothes, storybooks, stationery, or toys. Every little contribution can make a big difference in the lives of these children, providing them with not just material support, but also a sense of hope and belonging.

Let us come together to make this event a grand success and show our solidarity with those less fortunate. We believe that even small acts of kindness can create ripples of change in society.

For any questions or further details, please feel free to contact the **Head Girl** or the **Student Council members**.

Let's unite to spread joy and make this festive season brighter for these children.

**Together, we can make a difference!**

Thank you for your support!

**Head Girl**

[Your Name]

[School Name]

**(ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a nearby school requesting him to allow the students of his school to participate in the event.**

**Answer:**

**Subject:** Request for Participation in [Event Name]

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to extend an invitation to the students of [School Name] to participate in an upcoming event, [Event Name], organized by [Your School/Organization Name]. This event will take place on [Event Date] at [Event Location], and we would be thrilled to have students from your school join us for this exciting opportunity.

The event will feature a range of activities, including [briefly describe key activities or themes of the event, e.g., competitions, workshops, performances, etc.]. It promises to be a fantastic experience for students, offering them a chance to showcase their skills, interact with peers from different schools, and engage in educational and recreational activities. The event is designed to encourage creativity, teamwork, and personal growth.

We believe that the participation of your students would add great value to the event and provide them with a unique platform for learning and development. We are confident that they will benefit from the experience, and it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to meet new people, learn new things, and grow as individuals.

Please let us know if you would be open to allowing your students to participate. We would be happy to provide any additional details or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your positive response and hope to see your students at the event.

Warm regards,  
[Your Full Name]  
[Your Position]  
[Your School/Organization Name]  
[Your Contact Information]

#### **QUESTION 4.**

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

**Example :** I ..... (0) (met) him in the mall the day before yesterday.

**Answer :** had met

Sago pudding is a popular Chinese dessert often served in many Chinese restaurants. The dessert is made of pearl sago which is almost transparent and it ..... (1) (swell) during cooking.

Sago can ..... (2) (obtain) from the trunks of the sago palm which are found in swamps. The palm reaches a height of about ninety metres when fully ..... (3) (grow). The palms ..... (4) (cut down) just before they flower. Part of the trunk ..... (5) (pound) into pulp before it ..... (6) (turn) into powder by machine.



The powder is later washed and ..... (7) (dry). It is now called sago flour. This flour is then kneaded into dough and ..... (8) (pass) through another machine to form the pearl-like grains which we see in sago pudding.

**Answer:**

- (1) swells
- (2) be obtained
- (3) grown
- (4) are cut down
- (5) is pounded
- (6) turns
- (7) dried
- (8) passed

**(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word.**

- (a) I liked the book so much that I finished it \_\_\_\_ a day.
- (b) There was a security alert \_\_\_\_ the airport.
- (c) \_\_\_\_ a pause in the conversation, I excused myself and left for home.
- (d) I've taken a resolution not to drink \_\_\_\_ the end of year.
- (e) I'll return your money \_\_\_\_ the end of the year.
- (f) Because I had to reach home before dinner, I could stay with my friends \_\_\_\_ just two hours.
- (g) Most people left the party \_\_\_\_ 2 AM.
- (h) The party went on \_\_\_\_ 4 AM.

**Answer:**

- (a) in
- (b) at
- (c) during
- (d) until
- (e) by
- (f) for
- (g) by
- (h) until

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

**1. The beggar was crossing the road. The accident took place then.**

- (a) The accident took place and the beggar was crossing the road.
- (b) The beggar was crossing the road yet the accident took place.

- (c) Although the accident took place, the beggar was crossing the road.
- (d) The accident took place while the beggar was crossing the road.

**Answer:** (d) The accident took place while the beggar was crossing the road.

**2. She studied German for three years. Then she moved to Berlin.**

- (a) After she had studied German for three years, she moved to Berlin.
- (b) After she moved to Berlin, she studied German for three years.
- (c) After having studied German for three years, she moved to Berlin.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

**Answer:** (d) Both (a) and (c)

**3. The lawyer defended his client very well. He lost the case.**

- (a) Though the lawyer defended his client very well, yet he lost the case.
- (b) Although the lawyer defended his client very well but he lost the case.
- (c) Though the lawyer defended his client very well, he lost the case.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c) Though the lawyer defended his client very well, he lost the case.

**4. The bus left at six o' clock. We arrived at the bus stop at five past six.**

- (a) The bus had left after we arrived at the bus stop.
- (b) The bus had come after we arrived at the bus stop.
- (c) The bus had left before we arrived at the bus stop.
- (d) The bus had come before we arrived at the bus stop.

**Answer:** (c) The bus had left before we arrived at the bus stop.

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

**1. To the best of my knowledge, he is a vegetarian.**

[Begin with : As far... ]

- (a) As far my knowledge, he is a vegetarian.
- (b) As far my knowledge, he is not a vegetarian.
- (c) As far as I know, he is not a vegetarian.
- (d) As far as I know, he is a vegetarian.

**Answer:** (d) As far as I know, he is a vegetarian.

**2. As soon as the bus arrived, all rushed to their seats.**

[Rewrite using : hardly]



- (a) Hardly the bus arrived, when all rushed to their seats.
- (b) Hardly had the bus arrived, when all rushed to their seats.
- (c) Hardly had the bus arrived, than all rushed to their seats.
- (d) Hardly did the bus arrived, than all rushed to their seats.

**Answer:** (b) Hardly had the bus arrived, when all rushed to their seats.

**3. He must fill in the form.**

[Begin with : The form...]

- (a) The form should be filled by him.
- (b) The form could be filled in by him.
- (c) The form will be filled by him.
- (d) The form must be filled in by him.

**Answer:** (d) The form must be filled in by him.

**4. The doctor said to the patient, 'Quit Smoking.'**

[Report the given sentence]

- (a) The doctor told the patient to quit smoking.
- (b) The doctor requested the patient to quit smoking.
- (c) The doctor advised the patient to quit smoking.
- (d) The doctor said to the patient to quit smoking.

**Answer:** (c) The doctor advised the patient to quit smoking.

**5. Manisha decided to visit her friend and tell her the sad news.**

[Use : drop]

- (a) Manisha decided to drop at on her friend and tell her the sad news.
- (b) Manisha decided to drop on her friend and tell her the sad news.
- (c) Manisha decided to drop in on her friend and tell her the sad news.
- (d) Manisha decided for dropping at on her friend and tell her the sad news.

**Answer:** (c) Manisha decided to drop in on her friend and tell her the sad news.

**6. The only person I didn't see was Geeta.**

[Use : except]

- (a) I saw no one except Geeta.
- (b) I saw everyone except Geeta.
- (c) Except Geeta, I saw nothing.
- (d) Except Geeta, I saw something.

**Answer:** (b) I saw everyone except Geeta.

**7. He decided to walk instead of taking a taxi.**

[Begin with : Rather than]

- (a) Rather than not taking a taxi, he decided to walk.
- (b) Rather than not taking a taxi, he decided not to walk.
- (c) Rather than taking a taxi, he decided to walk.
- (d) Rather than taking a taxi, he decided not to walk.

**Answer:** (c) Rather than taking a taxi, he decided to walk.

**8. In spite of bad weather, a huge crowd came to see the match.**

[Begin with : The bad weather]

- (a) The bad weather deterred the huge crowd from coming to see the match.
- (b) The bad weather didn't deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.
- (c) The bad weather hadn't deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.
- (d) The bad weather did deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.

**Answer:** (b) The bad weather didn't deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.

**QUESTION 5.**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows.**

In Varanasi district, there is a village called Bira in which an old, childless widow used to live. She was a gond woman named Bhungi and she didn't own either a scrap of land or a house to live in. Her only source of livelihood was a parching oven. The village folk customarily have one meal a day of parched grains, so there was always a crowd around Bhungi's oven. Whatever grain she was paid for parching, she would grind or fry and eat it.

She slept in a corner of the same little shack that sheltered the oven. As soon as it was light she'd get up and go out to gather dry leaves from all around to make her fire. She would stack the leaves right next to the oven, and after twelve, light the fire. But on the days when she had to parch grain for Pandit Udaybhan Pandye, the owner of the village, she went to bed hungry.

She was obliged to work without pay for Pandit Udaybhan Pandey. She also had to fetch water for his house. And, for this reason, from time to time the oven was not lit. She lived in the Pandit's village; therefore he had full authority to make her do any sort of odd job. In his opinion, if she received food for working from him, how could it be considered as work done without pay? He was doing her a favour, in fact, by letting her live in the village at all. It was spring and a day on which the fresh grain was fried and eaten and given as a gift. No fire was lit in the house.



Bhungi's oven was being put to good use today. There was a crowd worthy of a village fair around her. She had scarcely any opportunity to draw a breath.

Because of the impatience of the customers, squabbles kept breaking out. Then two servants arrived, each carrying a heaped basket of grain from Pandit Udaybhan with the order to parch it right away. When Bhungi saw the two baskets, she was alarmed. It was already after twelve and even by sunset, she would not have time to parch so much grain. Now, she would have to stay at the parching oven until after dark for no payment. In despair, she took the two baskets. One of the flunkeys said menacingly, 'Don't waste any time or you'll be sorry' With this command, the servants went away and Bhungi began to parch the grain. It's no laughing matter to parch a whole maund of grain. She had to keep stopping from the parching in order to keep the oven fire going. So, by sundown not even half the work was done. She was afraid Panditji's men would be coming. She began to move her hands all the more frantically. Soon, the servants returned and said, 'Well, is the grain parched'?

Feeling bold, Bhungi said, "Can't you see? I'm parching it now" "The whole day's gone and you haven't finished any more grain than this! Have you been roasting it or spoiling it? This is completely uncooked! How's it going to be used for food?

It's the ruin of us! You'll see what Panditji does to you for this."

The result was that the same night the oven was dug up and Bhungi was left without a means of livelihood.

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

**1. squabbles (line 20)**

- (a) battles
- (b) talking to someone
- (c) quarrels
- (d) debates

**Answer:** (c) quarrels

**2. flunkeys (line 25)**

- (a) puppeteers
- (b) home wreckers
- (c) employers
- (d) man servants

**Answer:** (d) man servants

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

- (a) obliged
- (b) alarmed
- (c) afraid
- (d) parch

**Answer:** (c) afraid

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

**(a) What did one of the servants of Pandit Udaybhan warn Bhungi?**

**Answer:** One of the servants of Pandit Udaybhan warned Bhungi not to waste any time or she would regret it.

**(b) Which word in the passage shows that the old woman started working hastily in a disorderly manner out of anxiety?**

**Answer:** The word 'frantically' in line 46 shows that the woman started working hastily in a disorderly manner out of anxiety.

**(c) Why was Pandit Udaybhan against paying Bhungi?**

**Answer:** Pandit Udaybhan was against paying Bhungi because he was the owner of the village in which Bhungi stayed and she was obliged to him for allowing her to stay there.

**(d) How did Bhungi earn her livelihood?**

**Answer:** Bhungi was a Gond woman, a childless widow. She earned her livelihood by parching grain in the parching oven she had.

**(e) What does the author mean by "She had scarcely any opportunity to draw a breath"?**

**Answer:** The author means that Bhungi had to work continuously without a break.

**(iv) Describe the hard work and the plight of Bhungi, in your own words not exceeding 50.**

**Answer:** The Bhungi, traditionally manual scavengers, endure harsh, dehumanizing labor, cleaning human waste by hand. Often marginalized and stigmatized, they face social discrimination and poor living conditions, with little access to education or opportunities, reflecting a legacy of caste-based oppression.