PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 6

Maximum Marks: 80 **Time Allowed: Two Hours**

Answers to this Paper must be written on the 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 brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

(Note: This practice paper is independently prepared by Paul Academy and English Mines for examination preparation and is strictly modeled upon the official CISCE pattern.)

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]

(i) Write an original short story about how a stray dog gradually adopted an entire residential neighbourhood, winning over reluctant residents and ultimately uniting the community during an unexpected crisis.

(ii) Describe a dense Himalayan oak and rhododendron forest trail during a chilly autumn morning mist. Portray the muffled crunch of footsteps upon damp pine needles, the swirling grey vapour weaving through lichen-bearded branches, the sudden sharp birdcalls, and the majestic emergence of towering snow peaks as the sun broke through.

(iii) "Zoos and animal theme parks have no legitimate place in a modern, compassionate society." Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) Relate an experience in the solitude of nature--such as standing before a roaring waterfall, an ancient glacier, or a starry desert sky--that taught you an enduring lesson about human insignificance and humility.

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



Question 2

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

Select any one of the following:

[10]

(i) Write a letter to your grandmother describing a newly adopted hobby--such as terrace gardening, baking, or painting--and explain how pursuing it has helped you cope with academic pressures, discover patience, and bring joy to your family.

(ii) Write a letter to the Chief Medical Officer of your District Government Hospital drawing urgent attention to the deplorable sanitation and unhygienic conditions prevailing in the outpatient department. Highlight the lack of clean drinking water, overflowing waste disposal bins, and suggest concrete remedial measures.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising an Annual Wildlife Photography Exhibition on the theme 'Guardians of the Wild'. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students of Classes 8 to 10 and inviting them to submit photographs. [5]

(ii) Write an email to the Curator of the City Art Gallery requesting exhibition gallery space, display easels, and directional spotlighting for the school's Annual Wildlife Photography Exhibition.
[5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

Sub-zero winds shrieked across the wind-scoured limestone ridges of the Rumbak Valley in Hemis National Park, Ladakh, at an altitude exceeding four thousand meters. For two freezing weeks, wildlife biologist Tenzing Norbu and his three field trackers had camped in nylon tents beneath towering granite pinnacles, scanning the barren scree slopes through high-powered spotting scopes. They were searching for the most elusive predator on Earth: Panthera uncia, the snow leopard. Known among indigenous Ladakhi herders as the 'Shan' or 'the ghost of the mountains,' the feline was so masterfully concealed by nature that an untrained eye could stare directly at a resting leopard twenty paces away and see only fractured slate rock.

Evolution had sculpted the snow leopard into an absolute masterpiece of alpine adaptation. Its thick, smoky-grey coat was dappled with charcoal rosettes that matched the lichen-encrusted cliffs with uncanny perfection. Wide, fur-cushioned paws distributed the cat's weight effortlessly across crusty snow, functioning as natural snowshoes while dampening every footfall. Its thick, one-meter-long tail served a dual purpose: counterbalancing dizzying leaps across bottomless chasms and wrapping around its sensitive face like a fur muff during arctic blizzards.

On the fifteenth morning, tracker Stanzin tapped Tenzing's shoulder, pointing wordlessly toward a narrow saddle along the northern ridge. High on the fresh powder snow lay a line of rounded, unmistakable pugmarks, accompanied by fresh claw scrapes against an overhanging juniper trunk. Tenzing adjusted the twenty-power spotting scope and focused upon a jagged cliff face three hundred meters across the gorge. At first, the limestone wall appeared entirely desolate. Then, an infinitesimal ripple of grey movement detached itself from the frozen scree.

The ghost had materialized. A mature male snow leopard was descending a sheer, eighty-degree rock face with astonishing, fluid grace. Moving with deliberate, liquid stealth, the predator kept its muscular belly pressed against the stone, its pale green eyes locked upon a herd of wild blue sheep grazing on sparse winter scrub below. Every muscle in the cat's shoulders rippled beneath its dense fur. It navigated narrow ledges no wider than a man's palm, pausing motionlessly whenever a sentry ewe raised her head to sniff the updraft.

For nearly forty minutes, the researchers watched in spellbound reverence as the predator closed the distance with infinite patience. When a sudden gust swirled down the gully, carrying the leopard's scent, the alert herd bolted across the crags in a blur of clattering hooves. Denied an ambush, the leopard did not expend reckless energy in a futile chase. It leaped effortlessly onto a flat granite promontory, curled its magnificent tail across its paws, and surveyed the majestic snow peaks with regal indifference. In that timeless tableau, Tenzing understood why the mountains kept their secrets so well.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided:
[2]

1. elusive

(a) difficult to find or observe (b) tame and domesticated
(c) loud and dangerous (d) common and abundant

2. stealth

(a) loud and aggressive movement (b) cautious, quiet and secret movement
(c) careless, reckless speed (d) complete refusal to move

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of 'conspicuous'? [1]

(a) desolate (b) regal
(c) concealed (d) jagged

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

(a) What extreme conditions did Tenzing Norbu and his team endure in the Rumbak Valley? [2]

(b) State two physiological traits that help the snow leopard survive and hunt in arctic alpine terrain. [2]

(c) What physical evidence alerted the tracking team to the recent presence of a leopard? [2]

(d) Describe the leopard's stealthy technique while stalking the herd of blue sheep. [2]

(e) How did the leopard react when the blue sheep detected its scent and fled? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the evolutionary traits, tracking signs, and hunting behaviors of the snow leopard as described in the passage. You will be penalized for exceeding 50 words. Write the rough draft first and then write the final summary in the grid format provided. [8]

Question 5

[20]

(i) Fill in each numbered blank with the correct form of the word given in brackets after it. Do not copy the passage. Write the numbers in the correct serial order, and against each, the word/s appropriate to the blank it stands for.

Example: (0) achieved

[4]

On 17 December 1903, on the windswept coastal dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright (0) _____ (achieve) the first powered, controlled flight in human history. For four years, the bicycle mechanics from Ohio ...(1)... (conduct) rigorous wind-tunnel experiments, meticulously ...(2)... (calculate) lift and drag coefficients. Unlike contemporary aviators who focused solely on engine horsepower, the brothers ...(3)... (recognize) that pilot control was the fundamental problem that ...(4)... (need) to be solved. They ...(5)... (design) an ingenious three-axis control system that ...(6)... (enable) the pilot to steer the craft effectively. When Orville took the controls of the Flyer, the biplane lifted into the freezing headwind, ...(7)... (remain) airborne for twelve historical seconds before touching down. That brief flight of 120 feet permanently ...(8)... (launch) the modern era of global aviation.

(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word. You are required to write only one word: [4]

(a) The municipal water supply pumps were feared to break _____ under the intense summer demand.

(b) After missing a fortnight of school due to illness, Tarun studied hard to catch _____ with his classmates.

(c) Progressive educators advocate that schools should do _____ with excessive rote memorization.

(d) In times of sudden financial adversity, the humble family had no emergency savings to fall _____ upon.

(e) It took the resilient athlete several months to get _____ the psychological shock of his defeat.

(f) An independent judicial commission was appointed to look _____ allegations of examination malpractice.

(g) The mountain expedition camp began to run _____ of clean drinking water after four days of blizzard.

(h) The four white stripes on the ceremonial school badge stand _____ integrity, service, discipline, and courage.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so: [4]

1. The terrain was rugged and water was scarce. The geological team completed the mineral survey.

(a) In spite of the rugged terrain and scarcity of water, the geological team completed the mineral survey.

(b) The terrain was rugged so the geological team completed the mineral survey.

(c) Despite of the rugged terrain, the geological team completed the mineral survey.

(d) The geological team completed the mineral survey because water was scarce.

2. The ancient banyan tree was uprooted by the cyclone. It had stood in the village square for three centuries.

(a) The ancient banyan tree who had stood in the village square was uprooted by the cyclone.

(b) The ancient banyan tree was uprooted by the cyclone where it had stood for centuries.

(c) The ancient banyan tree, which had stood in the village square for three centuries, was uprooted by the cyclone.

(d) Having stood in the square for three centuries, the cyclone uprooted the banyan tree.

3. The young diver touched the ocean floor. She immediately signaled to her diving partner.

(a) On touch the ocean floor, the young diver immediately signaled to her diving partner.

(b) Upon touching the ocean floor, the young diver immediately signaled to her diving partner.

(c) The young diver touched the ocean floor for signaling to her diving partner.

(d) Touched the ocean floor, the young diver immediately signaled to her diving partner.

4. The conductor sounded the departure gong. The passengers boarded the river ferry.

(a) The conductor sounded the departure gong so the passengers boarded the river ferry.

(b) The passengers boarded the river ferry because the conductor sounds the gong.

(c) The conductor sounded the departure gong but the passengers boarded the ferry.

(d) As soon as the conductor sounded the departure gong, the passengers boarded the river ferry.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each: [8]

1. As soon as the curtain rose, the dancers took their opening positions. (Begin: No sooner had...)

(a) No sooner had the curtain risen than the dancers took their opening positions.

(b) No sooner had the curtain rose than the dancers took their opening positions.

(c) No sooner had the curtain risen when the dancers took their opening positions.

(d) No sooner the curtain had risen than the dancers took their opening positions.

2. The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to inhabit the earth. (Begin: No other...)

(a) No other animal ever known to inhabit the earth is larger as the blue whale.

(b) No other animal ever known to inhabit the earth is as larger as the blue whale.

(c) No other animal ever known to inhabit the earth was as large as the blue whale.

(d) No other animal ever known to inhabit the earth is as large as the blue whale.

3. The librarian said to the noisy students, "Please maintain absolute silence in the reading hall." (Begin: The librarian requested...)

(a) The librarian requested the noisy students that they should please maintain silence.

(b) The librarian requested the noisy students maintaining absolute silence in the reading hall.

(c) The librarian requested the noisy students to maintain absolute silence in the reading hall.

(d) The librarian requested the noisy students to please maintain silence in the hall.

4. The municipal council has renovated the historic town hall. (Begin: The historic town hall...)

(a) The historic town hall had been renovated by the municipal council.

(b) The historic town hall has been renovated by the municipal council.

(c) The historic town hall was renovated by the municipal council.

(d) The historic town hall is being renovated by the municipal council.

5. The old timber bridge was too frail to bear the weight of heavy trucks. (Use: so... that)

(a) The old timber bridge was so frail that it cannot bear the weight of heavy trucks.

(b) The old timber bridge was so frail for heavy trucks that it bore the weight.

(c) The old timber bridge was too frail that it could not bear the weight of trucks.

(d) The old timber bridge was so frail that it could not bear the weight of heavy trucks.

6. A mountaineer rarely encounters such perfect summit conditions. (Begin: Seldom...)

(a) Seldom does a mountaineer encounter such perfect summit conditions.

(b) Seldom a mountaineer encounters such perfect summit conditions.

(c) Seldom did a mountaineer encounter such perfect summit conditions.

(d) Seldom does a mountaineer encounters such perfect summit conditions.

7. If the navigator had not checked the compass, the vessel would have run aground. (Begin: Had the navigator...)

(a) Had the navigator checked the compass, the vessel would have run aground.

(b) Had the navigator not checked the compass, the vessel would have run aground.

(c) Had the navigator not checked the compass, the vessel would run aground.

(d) Had not the navigator checked the compass, the vessel would have run aground.

8. Rajiv is always punctual for his morning training session. (Begin: Rajiv is never...)

(a) Rajiv is never punctual for his morning training session.

(b) Rajiv is never absent from his morning training session.

(c) Rajiv is never late for his morning training session.

(d) Rajiv was never late for his morning training session.