

# ISC 2023 EXAMINATION

# Sample Question Paper-1

(Specimen Paper issued by CISCE dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022)

## English Paper-1

### (LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH)

### Class-12

**SOLVED**

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

*Candidates are allowed an additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.  
They must NOT start writing during this time.*

*Attempt all four questions.  
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in  
brackets [ ].  
(You are advised to spend not more than 45 minutes on Question 1,  
55 minutes on Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and  
50 minutes on Question 4).  
(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)*

#### Question 1

**Write a composition (in approximately 400–450 words) on any one of the following subjects:**

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of matter, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.) [10]

- (i) Last year, you visited your grandparents. There, you participated in a local festival. Describe the way people were dressed, the different cultural events and the food sold in the stalls. What were your feelings as you returned from the festivities?
- (ii) While you were at home during the lockdown due to the pandemic, an exciting event took place that turned you into a local hero. Narrate the incident.
- (iii) Advertisements should only present the truth. Argue for or against this idea.
- (iv) Hope
- (v) 'Be the change you want to see.' Present your reflections on this statement.
- (vi) Write an original short story that begins with the following words:  
He stood still in the kitchen, wondering what to do, when...

#### Question 2

- (i) You are the Head Boy/ Head Girl of *The XYZ School* and you have been asked to give a speech at the morning assembly on the topic – Waste Not, Want Not. Use the following guidelines to write the speech:  
Greeting and address to the gathering—importance of resources—careful use of food—careful use of money—conserving electricity—preserving the environment for the next generation. [15]
- (ii) As the President of the Student Council of *The XYZ School*, you have been asked to organise a food festival. The proceeds from the sale will be donated to an animal shelter nearby. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, outlining the steps you would take to make this event a success. [10]

#### Question 3

**Answer sections (i), (ii) and (iii).**

- (i) In each of the following items, sentence I is complete, while sentence II is not. Complete sentence II, making it as similar as possible to sentence I. Write sentence II in each case. [5]

**Example:**

- (z) (i) The heavy showers of rain revived the plants
- (ii) The plants.....

**Ans. (z)** The plants were revived by the heavy showers of rain.

- (a) (i) They are repairing my piano at the moment.
- (ii) My .....
- (b) (i) If you do not reach the theatre early, you will not get a good seat.
- (ii) Unless .....
- (c) (i) There were many obstacles, yet she succeeded in her mission.
- (ii) Although .....
- (d) (i) Chocolate cake is the best dessert I have ever eaten.
- (ii) No .....
- (e) (i) Scarcely did the famous store open when they all rushed in.
- (ii) As soon as .....

**(ii) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.)**

**[5]**

- (a) She decided not to give \_\_\_ to the pressure.
- (b) The teacher asked me to give \_\_\_ the worksheets.
- (c) The young man set \_\_\_ his own business.
- (d) The CEO set \_\_\_\_\_ the rules on the very first day of the year.
- (e) When his friends come home, he puts a fake accent.
- (f) Do not put \_\_\_\_\_ for tomorrow what you can do today.
- (g) She advised me not to look on what had already happened.
- (h) If you look \_\_\_\_\_ it carefully, you can see the mark.
- (i) Go \_\_\_\_\_ the document carefully before you sign it.
- (j) The price of gold is not likely to go anytime soon.

**(iii) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage but write the verbs in the correct order.**

**[5]**

As the highway policeman was \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (watch), he \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (notice) a car inching along, really slowly. Thinking that an extremely slow car is as dangerous as a speeding one, he \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (pull) the car aside. He \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (approach) it and noticed that there were five old ladies, two in the front and three at the back, looking wide eyed and white as ghosts. The lady who had been \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (drive) said, "Officer, I was not speeding. Why did you pull me up?"

The officer \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (reply) that going below the speed limit was also dangerous for other drivers.

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (do) exactly twenty-two miles per hour!" the old woman \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (say) proudly, pointing to a board.

The officer chuckled and said, "Ma'am, that's the route number, not the speed limit."

A bit embarrassed, the woman smiled and \_\_\_\_\_ (9) (thank) the officer for pointing out the error. As she started the car, the officer said, "Before I let you go, I must ask, are these other ladies ok? They seem to be a bit shaken and have not \_\_\_\_\_ (10) (utter) a word."

"Oh, they'll be alright in a bit. We just got off route 119."

#### Question 4

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions (i), (ii) and (iii) that follow:**

- (1) Mrs. Knight's school, to which Katy Carr went, was a low, one-storey building, and had a yard behind it, in which the girls played at recess. Next door to it was Miss Miller's school, equally large and popular, and with a yard behind it also. Only a high board fence separated the two playgrounds; and a feud raged constantly between the two schools as to the several merits of the respective teachers and their methods of teaching. **5**
- (2) Mrs. Knight's had one great advantage over the other; it possessed a wood-shed with a climbable roof, which commanded Miss Miller's premises, and upon this roof the girls used to sit in rows, turning up their noses at the foe in the next yard.
- (3) One morning, Katy was late for school. She could not find her things. Her algebra, as she expressed it, had "gone and lost itself" and the string was off her sun-hat. She ran about searching for these articles and banging doors, till Aunt Izzie was out of patience. **10**
- (4) "As for your algebra," she said, "if it is that very dirty book with only one cover, you will find it under the kitchen table; and here is the hat-string. Now, stand still and don't fidget! You shan't stir till I have sewed it on properly." **15**
- (5) It was not easy to do so, but Katy bore it as well as she could, only shifting perpetually from one foot to the other. The minute she was released, she flew into the kitchen, seized the algebra, and rushed like a whirlwind to the school.

- (6) She ran as fast as she could, but time ran faster, and before she was half-way there, the town clock struck nine, and all hope was lost. She marched into school in a very cross mood. 20
- (7) A day begun in this manner is pretty sure to end badly, as most of us know. All the morning through, things seemed to go wrong. Firstly, Katy made errors in her grammar lessons. Then her hand shook so much when she wrote her 25  
composition, that the writing could hardly be read and Mrs. Knight said that she had to do it all over again. This made Katy crosser than ever; the tears came into her eyes from vexation, and she made a bolt for the yard as soon as the bell rang, climbing up all alone to the wood-house roof, where she sat with her back to the school, trying to get her face in order before the rest should come. 30
- (8) Miss Miller's clock was about four minutes slower than Mrs. Knight's, so the next playground was empty. It was a warm, breezy day, and as Katy sat there, suddenly a gust of wind blew, and seizing her sun-hat, which was only half tied on, whirled it across the roof. She clutched after it as it flew, but too late. Once, twice, thrice it flapped and Katy saw it lying in a crumpled little heap in the enemy's yard. 35
- (9) This was horrible! Not merely losing the hat, but to lose it so! In another minute, the Miller girls would be out. Was it to be endured? Never! Katy set her teeth, and sliding rapidly down the roof, seized the fence, and with one bold leap, vaulted into Miss Miller's yard.

Adapted from: *What Katy Did*

By Susan Coolidge

- (i) (a) Given below are three words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [3]
- (1) Break time
  - (2) Prolonged quarrel or dispute
  - (3) A feeling of being annoyed
- (b) For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least ten words using the same word unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage: [3]
- (1) cross (line 22)
  - (2) bolt (line 28)
  - (3) school (line 29)
- (ii) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:
- (a) Explain the phrase, 'turning up their noses'. State how this feeling is brought out in the passage. [2]
  - (b) Describe the uniqueness of Katy Carr's school. [2]
  - (c) What made Katy late to school one day? [2]
  - (d) How did Aunt Izzie help her out? Explain whether this served the purpose. [2]
- (iii) Summarise all the things that went wrong for Katy in school, ultimately forcing her to jump into Miss Miller's playground (paragraphs 6 to 9). You are required to write the summary in the form of a connected passage in about 100 words. Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. [6]

# SOLUTIONS

## Sample Question Paper-1

### English Paper-1 (Language)

---

1. (i) Every child loves visiting his grandparents' house. I am no different. My grandparents stay in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Every year, I visit Ajmer during the summer vacations. Last year, too, I went there full of expectations of discovering something new.

Ajmer is an important city in Rajasthan. The amalgamation of Hindu and Islamic culture in the city make it the best example of unity in diversity. It is iconic for the presence of the Dargah of Saint Muin-ud-din Chishti and Soni Ji Ki Nasiya Jain Temple. The local people respect all religions and celebrate festivals together.

Last year, I was lucky because the festival of Urs clashed with my visit there. Urs is the commemoration of the death of Saint Muin-ud-din Chishti. It continues for six days and is marked with different activities for each day.

My grandfather is a great believer of Saint Muin-ud-din Chishti. Hence, we decided to visit the Dargah for all six days. Right after twilight, the qawwali session would start and continue till the early hours of morning. Most people were dressed in traditional kurta salwar and covered their heads with a skull cap or a handkerchief. Ladies too covered their heads with a scarf or wore a burqa. Unsurprisingly, there were many devotees here who were not Muslims. They too paid their respects to the saint.

There were many mouth-watering delicacies near the Dargah including soan halwa, kadi kachori, gajak and a variety of kebabs and chaats. We tried each one of them. The Dargah Mujawar i.e. guardians distributed sheerini which was similar to sweet balls. On the sixth day of the Urs, called 'Chati Sharif', there was a special program in which the khadims or servants of the Dargah recited the genealogical tree of the Chisti order. Then there was fariyad or supplication followed by Qul or conclusion. A poem of praise called badhaawa is sung by the mujawars right at the main entrance of the Dargah. After the Qul, a cannon is fired marking the end of the ceremony.

Visiting the Dargah was an enlightening experience for me. I had only heard of unity amongst Indians; however, I personally saw it when I visited the Dargah. I also felt that every culture is unique in its own way. The visit made me hungry for more such experiences. I have decided to travel all over the country exploring more such shrines as I grow up.

- (ii) Year 2020 has been a very trying period for most families. All across the world, people were surrounded with bad news of disease and death. However, it is always seen that the hardest times reveal the best inside us.

As soon as the pandemic took turn, complete lockdown was announced in my area. There was a great scarcity of essential commodities. The youth in my society gathered one day in a virtual meeting to discuss this. Here, I realised that the worst hit were those who had little babies in their house. They needed a regular supply of milk around the clock. I wrote a mail to the officer in charge of our area regarding this issue. Another person made a few calls to some important people. But we only received a lukewarm response. Nobody thought that milk was so crucial for survival.

Next week, I was looking out of the window in the wee hours of the morning. Just then, I saw a woman standing with her baby in the middle of the street. She looked panic stricken and also helpless. She was not shouting for help in the empty streets but was surely searching out for an angel. I realized the seriousness of the situation and immediately rushed out to help her. When I reached her, she was in hysterics. She could only utter 'Doctor'. Without wasting any time I asked her to sit in the car. I kept uttering consolatory words to keep her confidence up. Finally, we reached the hospital. I don't know how much time I was outside the doctor's chamber, but as soon as the dumb baby started crying, it made me cry with relief too. The doctors had called her relatives and I went home relieved. Actually the baby had fainted due to consumption of powder milk.

After a couple of days, I got a call that the Commissioner of Police wanted to see me. He thanked me for saving his nephew's life and told me how her sister's husband was on-duty when her labour pain started. She had misplaced her phone so she couldn't contact anyone. Unfortunately, her neighbours were also out of town. My timely help had saved her child.

The Commissioner offered me an award for my bravery. However, I told him that my greatest reward will be that essential commodities like milk are made available. The Commissioner heard me out and then wished me goodbye. A few days after our meeting, there was a relaxation in restrictions at many places in the city.

I think that my heroism was twice blessed. I not only managed to save a life that day but also made life easier for many other people.

- (iii) How do we know that a product is available in the market? Who tells us the specifications of the latest gadget? What makes us think that X is better than Y in quality? Advertisements!

Advertising is an important part of marketing and sales. Companies spend crores of rupees on celebrities to hook them in for their marketing campaigns. You may have seen an actor telling us how a particular soap makes them look beautiful or a cricketer telling us on how they drink an energy booster before going to the field. People are either mesmerised or gullible enough to believe the celebrity and rush forward to buy the product.

The question is – Are these celebrities lying? Or are they being completely truthful? I personally do not believe a word of what they say.

In reality, advertising is a huge scam. Special form of photography is done with products to make them appear more appealing. Do you know that fevicol is used to show creamy ice creams? A great deal of photoshop is required to show your hair reflecting the opposite surface. What's worse is that none of this is true!

I personally feel that advertisements are not reliable sources of information. As such, their deviation from reality is not only justified but also essential. For example, a soft drink owner cannot possibly tell people that regular consumption might lead to diseases like diabetes. Manufacturers have to blow their own trumpet to sell their products.

Instead of trusting advertisements, I think that people should refer to reviews written by users online. This will give them first-hand experience from the user of the product. Meanwhile, advertisements will continue to flourish and entertain us.

- (iv) When the Titanic started sinking, a lot of people rushed to get into lifeboats. They knew that lifeboats would hardly last against the mighty ocean tides. What kept them alive until morning? HOPE!

Hope is the essence of life. It shows us a path where there is none. It is like the tiny ray of light in absolute darkness. Hope makes us believe that things will get better some day. Look at the historical event of India's independence. Our struggle lasted for almost a century and was tainted by caste, religion and class differences. However, the freedom fighters kept their hope alive and here we are celebrating independence every year!

The opposite of hope is despair. Despair brings grief, and grief pushes us into depression. Depression is an ailment that can only be cured by hope. When hope is lost, people get to the brink of self-destruction in the form of suicide.

Hope gives us the power to go on. What happens when a student fails in the exam? Or a farmer loses his entire crop production to weather changes? They try again! Hope gives us the strength to strive. It is the elixir of survival.

Hope is the harbinger of tomorrow. It sings sonnets that tell us of a brighter day after a dark night. It eases the journey towards our future and develops a positive mindset. In this way, hope is not just an emotion. It is a value.

We all know death is inevitable. Then why do we go to the doctors for treatment? This is because we hope for a recovery. Scientists have spent months and years trying to discover something new that would benefit human beings. It is hope that converts herbs into remedies and wires into inventions. It is hope that runs through the entire technological advancement that humanity has seen.

Without hope, life would be a dreary process marked by the darkness of death. Hope helps us improve the quality of our lives. In fact, it even helps to make our deaths easy by promising us a better life hereafter. So, always keep your hopes high and keep striving towards the path of progress.

- (v) When Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa, he saw that the country was in bits and pieces. In order to identify with the poor Indians, he started wearing a dhoti and stopped using a shirt. His personality emitted an aura and people started aping him. Thus, he brought a change in people without passing any law and giving any penalty. This was accomplished due to leading by example.

In our day to day lives, we see a lot of wrong things happening. From bad roads to load shedding, the list is endless. However, instead of being in a perpetual state of complaint, do we try to change ourselves. Conservation of electricity and water, using the dustbin instead of littering the streets and other such measures



will change the destiny of our nation. We should not follow those whose actions are harmful to the future of our country.

Try the mirror technique in people. You will notice that as you behave, so shall they. Hence, leading by example is the most established truth.

Human nature is hesitant. In the part, if anyone would have said that scaling the Everest is impossible, many would have believed him. It would be However, now, a number of people have scaled it numerous times. So, it doesn't seem impossible at all. Even in the field of education, learning by doing is a fast spreading theory. As the teacher performs an activity, the students too gain confidence to perform similar activities.

We cannot change the world without changing ourselves. The first step towards bringing change is an individual over whom you exercise complete control. That individual is YOU! For example, if you want people around you to be on time, you have to be punctual yourself. If you want people to speak politely, be polite yourself. Thus, change can be brought about slowly and steadily.

- (vi) He stood still in the kitchen, wondering what to do, when he heard the noise once again. It sounded like muffled steps in some distant place. He concentrated on the noise trying to gauge its direction. It was definitely not from inside the house. Still concentrating he moved slowly in the direction of the noise until it became a little clearer. And then he heard a muffled voice too!

Yes, the noise came from the villa opposite his. Old Mrs. Singh lived there alone and as far as he knew, her caretaker had taken a leave for a week. Someone had taken advantage of the situation to break into her house. What should he do now?

Gary looked around for weapons. He was sure he could tackle a couple of thieves himself. He was a boxer, wasn't he? But what if they were more? What if they were carrying firearms? He could put his own life and his neighbour's life in danger. He could inform the police but they would take some time getting here. What should he do now?

Gary opened his closet and saw a traditional board of chess. It had wooden pieces that looked like real ones. Additionally, they moved on their own if the right button was pressed. Mrs. Singh had once asked him to sell it to her for a good price. Gary had refused. It was a family heirloom and he did not want to part with it.

He picked up the game and gave a hasty call at 100. Then, he ran to the opposite villa and boldly rang the bell, praying that his plan would work. Mrs. Singh opened the door after a while, perplexed she asked. "Do you know what time is it?"

"I have come to sell my game," he said showing the board. Mrs. Singh forgot what time it was and leapt towards the game. "I have a condition though," added Gary. "I want to play one last game on this board.... NOW!"

Mrs. Singh obviously agreed. The game started and got interesting with each dead pawn. He was sure that the thieves were hiding somewhere watching them with interest. Nobody knows how time flew and there was another ring on the doorbell. This time, it was the police.

The thieves were caught and Mrs. Singh thanked Gary for saving her life. Gary left her house in the morning. He had not forgotten to collect his game.

## 2. (i) Waste Not, Want Not

Respected Principal, teachers and my dear friends,

Today, I would like to bring to your notice a general ailment called wastage. Yes, this disease is fast catching the younger generation who do not realise that the earth has limited resources. Have you ever switched off lights in an empty rail compartment? Or picked up a half-drunk bottle of mineral water from a restaurant? If you have, then you truly value the importance of resources.

Remember my friends, earning money is relatively easy. But spending it in the right places is more difficult. Many teenagers insist their parents to buy useless gadgets just to fulfil their desire. I have also seen people wasting food and water in parties and functions. We need to understand that these habits will eventually lead to the earth's destruction.

I request all of you to be careful while using valuable resources like electricity, water and food even if they are available free of cost. Also, as we are in the prime of our youth, we need to save money for our retirement. Hence, carefully plan out your expenditures and limit your desires. Finally, remember all those people who do not have basic necessities before you think of wasting anything.

Waste not, want not!

**(ii) Heading:** Treat for Foodies! Food for Animals!

**Introduction:** To organise a food festival and donate the proceeds to an animal shelter nearby.

**Objectives:** A food festival will be organised by the Student Council. Students will donate the proceeds to an animal shelter near the school.

List of Measures:

- The school playground will be used to conduct the food festival.
- The festival will begin at 11 a.m. and continue till 4 p.m.
- All kinds of Indian and foreign cuisines are permitted. Any kind of snacks, starters or main courses can be presented.
- Only vegetarian dishes are allowed. Non-vegetarian food is strictly not allowed.
- Entry fees will be 200 per stall.
- Coupons of 10, 20, 40, 50, 100 will be available for customers. Prices of food items should be decided accordingly.
- Decent measures of cleanliness will be taken. Volunteers from the Student Council will clean the premises every half hour. Dustbins will be kept outside each stall.
- The stall that has the maximum collection will be given a gift.
- The Student Council will organise a visit to the animal shelter the next day. All stall applicants will be invited at the time of felicitation of the animal guardians.

We hope that the proposal will be accepted so that the animals benefit from the activities of the school.

**Question 3**

3. (i) (a) My piano is being repaired by them at the moment.  
 (b) Unless you reach the theatre early, you will not get a good seat.  
 (c) Although there were many obstacles, she succeeded in her mission.  
 (d) No dessert that I have ever eaten is better than chocolate cake.  
 (e) As soon as the famous store opened, they all rushed in.
- (ii) (a) in (b) away (c) up (d) down (e) on (f) off (g) back (h) at (i) through (j) up/down.
- (iii) (1) watching (2) noticed (3) pulled (4) approached (5) driving (6) replied (7) doing (8) said (9) thanked (10) uttered
4. (i) (a) (1) recess (2) feud (3) raged  
 (b) (1) The church had a big iron bell on its highest tower bearing an iron cross in red colour.  
 (2) The wind blew so loudly that the bolt on the door gave in.  
 (3) The most exciting part of our scuba diving trip was a school of fishes that swam in a unique pattern.
- (ii) (a) 'Turning up their noses' means 'showing dislike'. Mrs. Knight's school and Miss Miller's school are always quarrelling. The antipathy of the girls from Mrs. Knight's school as they would sit on the roof and gaze at their enemy school-goers is clearly shown through the phrase.  
 (b) Katy Carr's school was unique because it had a wood-shed with a climbable roof, which overlooked into Miss Miller's grounds. Girls would sit upon this roof in rows and express their dislike for girls from the other school.  
 (c) Katy was late to school because she could not find her things. Her algebra book was lost and the string had come off her sun-hat. A lot of time was wasted trying to fix the string and find the book.  
 (d) Aunt Izzie sewed the string on her sun-hat and also informed her where her algebra book was. However, this did not help her because she was eventually late for school.

**(iii)**

|   | 1       | 2     | 3        | 4      | 5       | 4       | 5         |
|---|---------|-------|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | As      | Katy  | got      | ready  | to      | go      | to        |
| 2 | school, | she   | realised | that   | she     | could   | not       |
| 3 | find    | her   | things.  | Her    | algebra | book    | was       |
| 4 | lost.   | The   | string   | had    | come    | off     | her       |
| 5 | hat.    | After | getting  | her    | book    | and     | repairing |
| 6 | her     | hat,  | she      | rushed | to      | school. | However,  |

|    |          |             |         |       |              |         |              |
|----|----------|-------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| 7  | she      | was         | already | late. | In           | school, | she          |
| 8  | made     | mistakes    | in      | her   | grammar      | lessons | and          |
| 9  | had      | to          | redo    | her   | composition. | In      | frustration, |
| 10 | she      | sat         | on      | the   | wood-shed    | to      | clean        |
| 11 | her      | tears       | before  | the   | break        | was     | over.        |
| 12 | But      | her         | sun-hat | flew  | off          | into    | Miss         |
| 13 | Miller's | playground. | She     | had   | no           | choice  | but          |
| 14 | to       | go          | there   | to    | fetch        | it.     |              |

As Katy got ready to go to school, she realised that she could not find her things. Her algebra book was lost. The string had come off her hat. After getting her book and repairing her hat, she rushed to school. However, she was already late. In school, she made mistakes in her grammar lessons and had to redo her composition. In frustration, she sat on the wood-shed to clean her tears before the break was over. But her sun-hat flew off into Miss Miller's playground. She had no choice but to go there to fetch it.

■ ■