



# KARNATAKA ICSE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

Preparatory Examination January-2020

Class : X  
Date: 08.01.2020

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
**English Paper – 1**

Max Marks: 80  
Duration: 2 hrs

*Instructions:*

*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*

**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]**

- Reading is a dying phenomenon of life nowadays. How has this impacted the life of youngsters today? Give suggestions for its improvement.
- Siblings often grow up side by side in families, yet they have very different life experiences. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion and explain the reasons with the effects of such circumstances.
- You were held up in a village railway station one night due to an accident. Give an account of your experience.
- Write a short story which illustrates the truth of the statement, 'Rumour is a great traveller'.
- Study the picture given below. Write a short story or 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; however, your composition must have a clear connection between the picture.



.....2

**Question: 2**

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

**Select any ONE of the following:**

**[10]**

- a) Your cousin is missing from home. Write a letter to the Superintendent of the Police of your locality, requesting him to trace your cousin. Give all relevant details that may help the police department.
- b) You went to a mall, one evening, when you saw a child crying. Write a letter to your friend narrating the efforts you made to locate the child's parents. Describe the reaction of the parents and the child when your efforts met with success. What did you feel?

**Question: 3**

**[5+5]**

- a) You are the class representative of your class. You have been entrusted with the planning and preparation of the farewell party of your seniors. Make a notice inviting your seniors to the function.
- b) Write an email to the Manager of a reputed local catering service, making necessary enquiries for the food you want to serve at the farewell party.

**Question: 4**

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

Using vague words and phrase like "you know," "nice" and "interesting" too often in a speech does not make good sense. "That's an interesting comment"; "That's a nice presentation"; "It was a nice meeting" – all these expressions don't convey much and sound apologetic at the same time. Try and use precise words so as to make an impact. Make an effort to choose the right word to describe your opinion. To be able to do that, you will need to work on you vocabulary. Reading is the best way to increase your vocabulary. Pay attention to any new word you come across and see how you can **incorporate** it in a sentence.

Never use slang in office. Never get into the buddy mode in office. Reserve it for socialising. Effective communication comes in handy to soften bad news. It is very painful to tell a subordinate that he/she is not required anymore. You wouldn't enjoy saying "You're fired!" to anyone. Instead, say: "We're very sorry we have to let you go." It is less painful for the person. And, of course, you have to do it in private – perhaps, in a conference room or a closed office cabin, so that the person can express his emotions and be spared the agony of an **inquisitive** audiences.

A good sense of humour is an asset that strengthens communication skills. There are also occasions when one has to say "no" to many things and many people. We all encounter people who soft-talk you by saying. "Please could you do this for me?" Saying an emphatic "no" is not only rude, but also can affect relationships. Instead, say, I'd do it if only I had four more hands and two more heads. "Don't say this rudely. Say it jovially with a smile so as to let the other person know you mean no offence, but you simply cannot spare the time to do that job. Always keep your language simple and don't **sprinkle** it with too many fancy words or jargon. Mispronunciations can badly affect your image. So, make an effort to pronounce words correctly. The sound of your voice is as important as the variety of your vocabulary. The best way to judge how you sound is by using a tape recorder. Read out a passage. Notice that the tone and pace of your voice changes each time. Note the strengths and improvise on the weakness. Speaking well is a great confidence-booster. You feel good if you sound good. And keep working on your voice vocabulary and pronunciation.

Last but not the least, one of the most important traits of an effective communicator is that he/she is also a good listener. Only if one learns to listen carefully can one respond appropriately.

Be attentive, ask for clarifications when you don't understand, don't interrupt, note down points you wish to clarify, and discuss them later. Remember, there may be many good speakers, but one has to be a good listener to become an effective communicator.

**a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage . One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.**

- i) incorporate    ii) inquisitive    iii) sprinkle

**b) Answer the following questions briefly in your words:**

- i) Suggest any two points to make your vocabulary rich. [2]  
ii) How does effective communication help you reduce the agony of a listener? [2]  
iii) What role does humour play in communication? [2]  
iv) How does listening contribute to being an effective communicator? [2]  
v) Explain: "Note the strength and improvise on the weaknesses." [1]

**c) In not more than 50 words describe what the author wants to convey about communication.** [8]

**Question: 5**

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

Example: A woman (0)\_\_\_\_\_ (wait) at an airport one night, with several long hours before her flight.

Answer: (0) was waiting

She (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (hunt) for a book in the airport shops, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a bag of cookies and found a place to sit. She (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (engross) in her book, but happened to see that the man sitting beside her, bold as could be, grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between, which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene. So she (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (munch) the cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy thief diminished her stock. She (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) more irritated as the minutes ticked by, thinking , "If I wasn't so nice, I (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (black) his eye." With each cookie she took, he took one too. When only one was left, she wondered what he would do. With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh, he (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the last cookie and broke it in half. He offered her half, as he ate the other. She had never known she could be so angry and turned to gather her belongings. As he reached for her baggage, she gasped with surprise, there was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes. If mine are here, she moaned in despair, the others were his, and he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to share.

**b) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word:** [4]

- i) All the servants waited \_\_\_\_\_ her.  
ii) He is negligent \_\_\_\_\_ his work.  
iii) The teacher was greatly incensed \_\_\_\_\_ the child's obstinacy.  
iv) Due to the child's illness they put \_\_\_\_\_ the party.  
v) It is difficult to make \_\_\_\_\_ what he writes.  
vi) She promised to meet me at the theatre, but she failed to turn \_\_\_\_\_  
vii) People who put \_\_\_\_\_ an air of dignity are seldom liked.  
viii) The child was kept \_\_\_\_\_ due to high fever.

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

[4]

- i) It was rather frosty dawn. The mountaineers left their camp.
- ii) The leader was missing. The followers were missing.
- iii) He got up. He walked away.
- iv) The hermit sat there. He did not move. He did not speak.

d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [8]

- i) Who replaced the player after he was injured?  
(Use 'substitute' instead of 'replaced')
- ii) The captain said, "Bravo! Well done."  
(Begin: The captain applauded.....)
- iii) I realized that my ideas were working and my opinion mattered a lot.  
(Begin : Not only)
- iv) I had taken a lot of care in the laboratory yesterday, and the experiment was conducted perfectly.  
(Begin: If I had not.....)
- v) If you break the queue while waiting for the bus, there will be disorder.  
(Begin: Unless)
- vi) Our school sent up the best exhibit to the Town Hall.  
(Rewrite using 'better')
- vii) Mrs.Sen always kept her promise.  
(Rewrite using 'never')
- viii) Your speech was too good for words.  
(Use: so....that)

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