ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, DEHRADUN
I[ST] PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2024-25

SUBJECT: ENGLISH PAPER I **CLASS: XII** **M.M.: 80 TIME: 3 HOURS**

NAME OF THE STUDENT.....CLASS/SECTION.....ROLL NO.....

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: **[20]**

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

(i) On your way back from Delhi, you stopped for lunch at a wayside restaurant. Describe the restaurant, the surroundings, the food and ambience that made your short visit memorable.

(ii) Your neighbour had to suddenly go out of station because of a family emergency and requested you to take care of his pet dog for a day. Narrate as humorously as possible your experience with the dog.

(iii) "Words break no bones, but they break hearts." Present your reflections on this statement.

(iv) 'Today's generation causes stress for itself by striving to achieve unprecedented heights.' Argue either **FOR** or **AGAINST** the statement.

(v) Family.

(vi) Write an original short story with the title "A leopard cannot change its spots."

QUESTION 2.

(a) Write an article (in approximately 300 words) titled 'Save Water- Save Life', using the points given below.

Vitally essential resource – water scarcity and its causes – effects of population and pollution – industrialization and urbanization as key factors – disastrous consequences of water scarcity – concrete steps to conserve water. **[15]**

(b) As the President of the Environment Club of your school, you wish to start a Tree Plantation Drive. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, stating the purpose and steps you would take to succeed in this endeavour. **[10]**

QUESTION 3.

Answer subparts (i), (ii) and (iii)

(i) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each of them in brackets.

(a) The Shanghai Tower is one of the tallest buildings in the world.
(Use: tall)

(b) She put the ornaments in her locker so as not to lose them.
(Use: lest)

(c) You can see the snow capped mountains only on a clear day.
(Begin: Only..... .....)

(d) The teacher said to the students, "Let us decorate our softboard for the function."
(Begin :The teacher suggested.....)

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(e) We cannot finish this project, if you do not help us.
(Begin: Unless.....)

(ii) In the following sentences, replace the INCORRECT underlined words to make the sentence meaningful and grammatically correct. Do not copy sentences. [5]

(a) I could do for a sandwich and a cup of coffee.
(b) In order to succeed we must do off with our bad habits.
(c) Derek was burning into rage after the quarrel.
(d) The house had burned through in 1845.
(e) She has nothing more to say as she has run above of all excuses.
(f) Taran decided to run ahead the important points before the exam.
(g) Don't hold onto the line. Keep moving.
(h) The President could not hold beyond his anger.
(i) She failed on her attempt to clear the examination in the first go.
(j) The crowd failed up understand the meaning behind his threat.

(iii) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not rewrite the sentence but the verb in the correct order. [5]

The Great Wall of China _____ (1) (build) between the 3rd century BC and the 16th century _____ (2) (protect) the northern borders of the Chinese empire during the rule of successive dynasties. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall _____ (3) (wind) up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus_____ (4) (stretch) approximately 6700 kilometers from east to west of China.

With a history of more than 2000 years, some of the sections of the Great Wall _____ (5) (be) now in ruins. However, it is still one of the most appealing attractions all around the world owing to its architectural grandeur and historical significance. The credit for making the wall, as it stands today _____ (6) (go) mainly to the emperor Shih Huang Ti. He joined three earlier frontier walls to create this colossal and unsurpassable boundary between China and the north.

The wall has watch towers at regular intervals which _____ (7) (use) to store weapons, house troops and send smoke signals. During the long duration of the construction of the wall and working under extremities of harsh weather condition, thousands of men _____ (8) (perish), _____ (9) (earn) for it the dubious distinction of being the 'longest cemetery' of the world. The wall today _____(10) (become) a sign of Chinese cultural heritage and a witness to man's constant encounters with war and peace.

Question 4.

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

At eleven o'clock the worst happened- a tyre blew. It was a front tyre and I fought the wheel as we jolted to a stop. 'Let's make this fast,' I said, and grabbed the wheel brace.
If we had to have a puncture, it wasn't a bad place to have it. The footing was level enough to take the jack without slipping and there was no mud at that point. I jacked up the front of the Land Rover and got busy on the wheel with the brace. I took the wheel off, rolled it away and replaced it with the **spare.** The whole operation took a little under ten minutes, time we couldn't afford- not there and then.

Once we were farther south, we could lose ourselves on a more or less **complex** road network, but these wilderness tracks were too restricted for my liking.

I tightened the last wheel nut and then looked to see what had caused a blowout and to put the wheel back into its rack. What I saw made my blood run cold. I fingered the jagged hole in the thick tyre and looked up at the high ridge which dominated the track.

There was only one thing that could make a hole like that- a bullet. And somewhere up on the ridge hidden in some crevice, was a sniper- and even then I was probably, in his sights.
How did Kennikin get ahead of me? That was my first bitter thought. But idle thoughts were no use and action was necessary.

I heaved up the wheel with its ruined tyre onto the bonnet and screwed it down securely. While I rotated the wheel brace, I glanced covertly at the ridge .There was a lot of open ground before the ridge heaved itself into the air- at least two hundred yards and the closest a sniper could have been was possibly four hundred yards and probably more.
Any man who could put a bullet into a tyre at over four hundred yards- a quarter mile- was surely a good shot. So good that he could put a bullet into me any time he liked- so why hadn't he? I was in plain view, a perfect target and yet no bullets had come my way. I tightened down the last nut and turned my back to the ridge and felt a prickling between my shoulder **blades**- that was where the bullet would hit me if it came.

I jumped to the ground and put away the brace and jack concentrating on doing the natural thing. The palms of my hands were slippery with sweat. I went to the back of the Land Rover and climbed in and sat down. Sitting in that confined space give me a comforting illusion of protection but that's all it was- an illusion. For the second time I wished the Land Rover had been an armoured car. From where I was sitting, I could inspect the slopes of the ridge without being too obvious about it and I made the most of the opportunity.
Nothing moved among those red and grey rocks. Nobody stood up and waved or cheered. If anyone was still up there, he was keeping as quiet as a mouse which, of course, was the correct thing to do. If you pump a bullet at someone you'd better scrunch yourself up small in case he starts shooting back.

But- was anybody still up there? I rather thought there was. Who in his right mind would shoot a hole in the tyre of a car and then just walk away? So he was still up there waiting and watching. But if he was still there, why hadn't he nailed me? It didn't make much sense- unless he was just supposed to immobilize me. If that was so then Kennikin had men coming in from both sides. It wouldn't be too hard to arrange if he knew where I was- radio communication is a wonderful thing. That character up on the ridge would have been instructed to stop me so that Kennikin could catch up; and that meant he wanted me alive.

I wondered what would happen if I got into the driving seat and took off again. The odds were that another bullet would rip open another tyre. It would be easier this time on a sitting target. I didn't take the trouble to find out- there was a limit to the number of spare tyres I carried and the limit had already been reached.

Adapted from ***Running Blind*** by Desmond Bagley

(i) (a) Find a word from the passage that will exactly replace the underlined word or words in the following sentences. [3]

(1) The guide warned us of the dangers of falling into a <u>tight, narrow gap</u> while trekking at night.
(2) I <u>lifted</u> the heavy box and slid it on the cupboard in the store room.
(3) His long legs bent up in the <u>limited and restricted</u> space of the airplane.

(b) For each of the words given below, choose the correct sentence that uses the same word unchanged in spelling, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage. [3]

(1) spare

(A) Aftab took out the spare cash from his wallet and gave it to the beggar.
(B) The lawyer spared no one and lashed out furiously at the family of the criminal.
(C) Samarth is a busy man; he has no time to spare.
(D) The equipment is expensive as it comes with a complete set of spares.

(2) complex

(A) It was difficult for me to solve such a complex mathematical problem.
(B) The new sports complex is frequented by many youngsters.
(C) This complex issue can be untangled only by a historian.
(D) This building has a very complex structure.

(3) blades

(A) Vijay had a terrible pain in his shoulder blades and went to see a doctor.
(B) Joe knew that the wind direction was suitable for his venture, when the blade of the grass turned slightly right.
(C) The blade of the sword glinted softly in the darkness.
(D) Students were warned against bringing sharp blades to school.

(ii) Answer the following questions as briefly as possible in your own words.

(a) What kind of a terrain was the narrator driving in when he felt his tyre burst? What makes him feel that it wasn't a 'bad place'? [2]

(b) What made the narrator's blood run cold? Why did he feel that the sniper was a good shot? [2]

(c) What does the narrator mean by 'comforting illusion of protection'? Why does he feel so? [2]

(iii) Summarise the thoughts that arose in the writer's mind after he saw the damaged tyre. You are required to write the summary in the form of a connected passage in 100 words. Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalized. [8]

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