
ICSE Paper 2007

ENGLISH-I

Question 1.

[25]

(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question)

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following :

- (a) *Recall a remarkable event of social importance in your city or locality. Give a little of its background, the event as it occurred, and its impact on the lives of people.*
- (b) *Cinema, both entertains and educates the masses. Express your views either for or against this statement.*
- (c) *Siblings often grow up side by side in families; yet have very different life experiences. If you have one or more siblings and feel that your lives have differed significantly, write an essay explaining the reasons and the effects of such differences.*
- (d) *Relate an incident or write a short story which has as its central idea 'advice not taken'.*
- (e) *Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.*



Answer.

- (a) The Jessica Lal murder case sparked off a wave of controversy and protest all over the country. This case was an open and shut case as the murderer had been

identified many years ago. Still nothing was done about imprisoning him and bringing justice to Jessica's family members.

The people of my city Delhi tried to do something about this case. They knew very well that "Justice delayed is justice denied." Hence they thought of reminding the country of this unpunished murder case. It was well known that several years had passed since the murder and yet the killers were roaming scot-free.

A group of about twenty people, including the family members of Jessica Nal began a silent journey. They walled towards India Gate with lighted candles. As they marched towards it many people began to join them. People used their cell-phone to send SMS's to others whom they knew. Within hours the crowd of people grew into hundreds. They marched in total silence.

Some of the people were singing inspirational songs. Soon the Doordarshan was also intimated. Other news channels like "Aaj Tak", Zee News and NDTV also appeared on the scene in no time. Soon the journalists were covering the entire incident.

The peace-marchers kept their candles upon the gate in a very calm and composed manner. A photograph of Jessica was kept amidst hundreds of these burning candles. The soft golden yellow light of these candles fell upon the dead girl's face and lit it up with a heavenly beauty.

The T.V. Channels then began to interview some of the family members. They spoke in soft hushed tones but were firm in their demand of justice. Pamphlets were distributed the next day together public opinion in their favour.

This unique march left a deep impression upon everyone's minds. In fact this method of drawing public attention to any important issue has become very popular now. Many months later when the issue of reservations came up, the young doctors and students took up the same method of protest.

This was a remarkable event of social importance in my city Delhi. It had left a deep impact on the hearts and minds of the people. Now people do not have to shout slogans or resort to violence in order to raise their voice against any issue.

(b) "Cinema both entertains and educates the masses." Express your views either for or against this statement.

Cinema is an extension of our lives. It takes us into a world where we forget ourselves for a couple of hours. I surely agree that cinema both entertains and educates us.

The basic purpose for which the silent black and white "Harishchandra" or the first talkie "Alam Ara" was created in India was to provide a new source of entertainment to the people. As the cinematic reels begin to unfold before us, the masses in large numbers, we relax, let loose our problems and quietly gaze at the unfolding of a story before us.

The movies make us experience those pleasures which we may never ever have a chance to favour in real life. In this manner "reel life is quite different from real life." We climb Mount Everest, we dive into the deep seas admiring the under-water flora and fauna, we go back into history and meet great people from the past, we even step into the future with the help of various scientific inventions and feel the pulse of the times. If this is not education then what is?

Cinema takes us to exotic locations all over the world. We visit remote areas of Mexico and Chile, we go for a jungle Safari in the game-reserves of Africa, we gaze with wonder at the mammoth pyramids of Egypt, we peep into the lives

of the tribals. All this is much more interesting than going through thick encyclopaedias. This definitely adds to our general knowledge.

Cinema as an entertainer has a very wide appeal. The movies made in Bollywood are shown not only in all across our country but all over the world. The entertainment tax collected by the cinema is in crores. The song and dance sequences, the sale of music cassettes and C.D.'s all go to prove how popular film music is. It surely entertains both the rich and the poor alike.

When a person is mentally and physically tired, he looks forward to a good entertaining movie at the end of the weekend. People not only see a good movie once, but go there several times to see it. Why do they go there repeatedly? Obviously to get entertainment.

Thus there is no doubt that movies both educate and entertain.

(c) **Siblings.....**

Siblings ! Brothers and sisters ! Oh God ! how I wish at times that I was the only child of my parents. I would be the only apple of their eye, the sole recipient of their love and affection. I would not have to share my room, my study table, my cupboard, my clothes etc. with my Siblings. Most of all there would be no fights in the house !

I do admit that what I have written is a purely selfish account of my desires. May be I am an attention seeker. But, speaking honestly it would be a very lonely life without my elder sister.

Although genetically we are the same but as far as our temperament goes, we are poles apart. The reasons for these differences can be traced to interesting roots. My sister is elder to me by six and a half years. When I was born, she became my second mother. She loved playing with me like a doll, she helped to feed me, she changed my nappies and can you imagine that she even gave me a bath. It is a different matter that once she nearly drowned me in the bath tub as I slipped away from her fingers and refused to be "a well-behaved younger sibling."

This perhaps is the reason why even now she continues to mother me. When we go out of town we share our suitcase. It is she who lays out my clothes, footwear my accessories neatly upon the bed as we get ready for the day. It is she who puts away the dirty clothes in a separate bag. It is she again who unpacks as well as re-packs our bags on leaving.

Being mollycoddled in this manner, I have reaped full benefits of being the younger Sibling. Perhaps this is what which has made me a carefree irresponsible child. I continue to strew things around in my room. I do not share any trace of the love for cleanliness and tidiness which my elder sister displays. My study table is littered with books, while hers is neatly organized. When going out, she takes a few minutes to get ready while I take ages to decide what to wear.

Even when it comes to handling money, she controls the purse strings, keeps an account of each paisa spent while I tend to lose money constantly. She speaks softly and gently whereas I, the brat of the family screams and shouts. She likes to watch the Discovery Channel while I am glued to the MTV. She is fond of traditional dresses, whereas I go mad over western clothes. Even in the choice of music, our tastes vary diametrically.

The effects of such differences are to be seen clearly in our personalities. While my sister is a typical example of what an elder sister should be, I have remained

a true specimen of a younger sister even carefree, disorganized and dependent upon my elder Sibling for many things in life.

(d) **“Advice not taken”**

Like all mothers, my mother too is a firm believer of the dictum that “Advice given day and night shall set your child right.” So whether it is six in the morning or twelve at night, I can never escape from her constant showers of advice. Some of them make sense some don't.

Now when the chance to travel independently from Agra to Goa came my way I was ecstatic. I looked forward to the adventure of my first Solo train journey. As my packing began, so did her advice, “Don't forget your medicines,” “Don't trust strangers on the way,” “Never get off the train till you reach Goa” etc. etc.

The train journey started off on a pleasant note, the weather was fine and I secured a window seat. I was fully furnished with snacks, water, soft drinks and my novel to read. Sitting across me was an extremely polite family. They had two teenaged daughters who kept me good company. We talked, shared our views about this and that. We joked and ate our lunch together.

Time flew as one station passed another. We commented on the kind of people who came in, giggling and cracking jokes at their expense. Mr. and Mrs. Bhargava and their two charming daughters Neha and Supriya kept me good company.

At night I went up to the upper berth. Neha helped me to climb up to it and everytime I had to come down, I would call for her assistance. “Such helpful people!”, I thought with joy.

Finally the Madhgaon station, just short of the Goa central came. We packed our bags and got ready to bid each other goodbye. My uncle was to receive me at the station. I got down and looked all around but there was no trace of him.

Mrs. Bhargava suggested that I should leave my bags with them at the platform and then go in search for my uncle. May be he was waiting for me at the exit gate. I quickly took their advice and sauntered off to the main entrance and exit gates. For about ten minutes I continued my search till at last I spotted him, hurrying towards me with apologies for being late.

He was surprised to see me empty handed. I told him that my two travelling bags were on the platform with my fellow passengers taking care of them. We walked to the spot where I had left them. Now it was my turn to be surprised. There was no trace of either the Bhargavas or my bags. I had been royally duped. It was then that my mother's advice sounded in my ears, “Neelu, don't trust strangers whom you meet on the way.” I wish I had taken that precious advice.

(e) **Picture Composition**

The race-course was filling up. The cheerful crowds, fashionably chesed men and women and the green grounds before them made it a perfect picture. A voice on the loudspeaker began to request the people to take their seats.

I had gone along with my elder brother to the Mahalaxmi Race Course at Mumbai. I was quite a sportsman myself though horse racing was quite a new event for me. I had heard wild stories of people betting on horses and becoming millionaires in a day. I had in my heart of hearts always wished that I could also be a lucky winner some day.

My elder brother seemed shocked when I told him that I wanted to bet all my pocket money on the horses that day. He felt I was taking quite a risk. But

something inside me compelled me to go ahead with my plan. At last I convinced my brother and better my collected amount of Rs. 5000/- on the horse named "Thunder".

The pistol was fired in the air, the jockeys were ready on their steeds and then the electronic gates opened out flowed the riders and their horses. They wore attractive colours and their horses showed their rippling, muscles and shining bodies. I wondered just how many hours of endless training, patience, skill and effort was behind the horsemen and their animals.

I cheered wildly and shouted with all my might when I saw Thunder. As the minutes rolled by, three other horses whose numbers were 25, 36 and 14 began to lead.

The riders were thorough professionals and the animals were extremely well bred. They soon left behind the entire lot of animals. My spirits fell, I thought I was about to lose all my patiently gathered pocket money. I thought of the sacrifices I had made to gather this amount.

The lead continued and only four and a half minutes were left for the race to be over. I tinned away and prepared to go. Just when I had reached the exit gate I heard the voice on the microphone. It said, "And now, wonder of all wonders, number 36 has stumbled upon the obstacles, number 14 is also lagging behind and did you ever guess that number 9, Thunder is taking a lead."

I could not believe my ears? I ran to my brother and held his hand as we both saw Thunder, my lucky horse number 9 winning the race.

Question 2.

[10]

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

Select ONE of the following :

- (a) *One of your grandparents has completed one hundred years of age. Write a letter congratulating him/her, expressing gratitude, praise and admiration for the way he/she has lived his/her life.*
- (b) *A company has been marketing spurious medicines behind claims that its product could be effective in preventing the avian flue or other forms of influenza. Write a letter to the Drug Controller General of the Directorate of Health Services, examining the claim of the company and explaining the harm these kind of claims could cause.*

Answer.

- (a) D-37, Lajpat Kunj
Agra, 282001

14th May, 2007

The Drug Controller General
Directorate of Health Services
New Delhi : 1100049

Dear Sir,

Subject : Exposing the sale of spurious medicines

I am writing this letter on behalf of numerous residents of Agra. I would like to draw your attention to the recent advertisements published in our daily local newspaper "Amar Ujala" and "Dainik Jagran". There is a pharmaceutical company called "Miracle Cures" which is behind these advertisements. According to these advertisements the Avian-flu or Chicken-gunia as it is

popularly called and other kinds of influenza can be cured within seven days after taking a regular dose of this medicine. They claim that it is a miracle which has no parallel in the world of medicine.

Those who have taken these tablets have a different story to tell. They say that these medicines are very expensive. A complete course for a week costs about Rs. 1500. To add to these there are some tonics and vitamin supplements which cost another Rs. 600. So the total amount comes to about Rs. 2100. This is a significant amount for an average man.

The section of people who are being fooled the most are the ignorant farmers. This medicine company has done much propaganda in the villages, distributing pamphlets and offering lucky draws and surprise gifts to those who buy the complete course of these medicines.

The Doctors of the town say that these tablets are absolutely fake. They only suppress the symptoms and cause damage to our nervous system. Some patients have even complained of shivering, convulsions and fits after eating these medicines.

We make a serious and sincere appeal to you to please take charge of the situation. Get these tablets tested and expose the racket of spurious medicines. We will look forward to a speedy and favourable response from your side.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

Anil Jha
(b) 23-A Kamla Nagar
Agra 282004

14th May, 2007

My dearest Grandma,

Please do accept my heart-felt congratulations on this very special day, your birthday. Just imagine you have completed a century Grandma, you are hundred years old ! All my friends join me in conveying our birthday wishes to you.

I am sorry that I am unable to be home on this grand day. Had it not been for my Engineering entrance exam. tomorrow, I surely would have been there with you.

Grandma I would like to express my gratitude for all that you have done for me through all these years. Looking back on all these years I still remember the many happy hours we spent together. Remember, you never slept in the afternoons and kept busy with some craft or the other. During my 6th standard at school you helped me to complete my S.U.P.W. projects.

Do you remember how patiently you taught me to hold my knitting needles ? I still have that multicoloured muffler which you and I made together. I have preserved it for its memories attached to you. I am also very thankful to you for inspiring me to create beautiful objects out of waste material. I still take pleasure in creating paper-machine boxes, small dolls made of old stocking, doll's furniture made out of match boxes and what not ! Some of my friends really wonder where I learnt all these things and who was my brilliant teacher. When I told them it was you, they were filled with admiration for you.

Even my first cooking-lessons were taken by you. During my tenth standard, I had taken home-science and you helped me to learn the various recipes by

demonstrating them. Not only I but many of my friends owe their culinary skills to you.

Let me take this opportunity to admire the manner in which you have lived your life. You faced many critical phases in your life. Grandpa's death when you were just thirty five, the illness of my maternal uncle and the economic crisis at home. All these did not deter you. You still remained calm and positive. Perhaps your deep faith in God has also helped you to withstand all these difficulties.

Once again, do accept my regards and best wishes on this memorable day. I will try to come and meet you as soon as possible.

With love and regards,

Meena

Question 3.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

The boy was idling in the market-place on the look out for mischief. All at once he saw it beckoning him. Workmen had been slating the church spire, and their ladders stretched invitingly from earth to steeple.

All children like scrambling up to high places to see if the world looks any different from an apple tree or a stable loft. Over and above his love for climbing, Michael had a longing to do things that had never been done before. As he gazed at the spire, crowned by a golden ball and weather-vane, an idea crept into his mind—he would be the first person in Flushing to stand on the golden ball beneath the weather-vane!

He glanced around. No one was looking; Michael began to swarm up the ladder. At the top of the tower there rose a slated spire crowned by a golden ball and weather-vane. At last Michael found himself squatting on top of the ball, holding on by the vane.

Presently he heard workmen moving below. He did not peer over or speak. He was not going to be hauled down before Flushing had seen him. The voices died away and Michael sat resting.

At last he felt ready to **startle** the town. He pulled himself to his feet, and keeping tight hold of the weather-vane, managed to stand on top of the ball. It was well that he had a cool head and iron nerves.

Someone must have cast a **casual** glance up at the vane and seeing his little figure, cried out. In a minute or two Michael was delighted to see the market-place full of people who had rushed out of their shops and houses to gaze at the dizzy sight. It was splendid to have all those eyes and hearts glued upon you!

But Michael did not intend to stay there until he was fetched down, to be handed over to his father and cuffed before the crowd. After a while he prepared to descend of his own free will.

He leaned over the ball. The ladder had gone. The workmen had taken it away! A sudden feeling of sickness and giddiness came over Michael. He mastered it. To wait for rescue was a humiliating end to his escapade. He would come down alone, even if it cost him his life.

The spire at the base of the ball was only half slated, and Michael saw some hope of gaining a foothold on the old part. He clasped his arms round the top

of the ball and let his body swing down; he was just able to feel the first slate with his toes. Those toes were shod with iron toe-caps, for Michael was hard on his shoes. Michael kicked with his marmoured toes till the slate crashed and fell in; then he got a foothold on the wooden laths beneath.

He rested for a minute, with aching arms and a stiff body. He must change his grip on the ball, which was too big to slide his arms down; he must get clear of it, and somehow **grasp** the spire beneath. One false move and he would be hurled to death on the cobbles below.

Slowly he began to slide his hands together at the top of the ball, and then downward over its bulging face. Every inch was packed with peril; every inch pushed him backward towards death. It seemed to him that he would be too weak to hold on when the time came for him to grasp the spire.

But at last the steady, deadly creeping of his fingers brought him to a point where he could bend forward. With a sudden snatch he caught the base of the ball.

The next moment he was kicking out a stairway in the old tiles and swarming swiftly down. He reached the foot of the spire, lifted the trapdoor of the tower, ran down the steps, and was caught by his father in the organ loft.

(a) *Three words from the passage are given below. Give the meaning of each word as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted :*

(i) startle (line 17)

(ii) casual (line 20)

(iii) grasp (line 40)

[3]

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

(i) What was Michael doing in the market-place ? What attracted his attention ?

[2]

(ii) What did Michael long to do ? What did he plan to do to accomplish this ?

[3]

(iii) How did Michael display 'a cool head and iron nerves' ?

[1]

(iv) Which sight filled Michael's heart with delight and why ?

[2]

(v) Why did Michael not wait for rescue ?

[3]

(vi) Use the word 'face' (line 42) in a sentence of your own such that it has a different meaning from that it carries in the passage.

[1]

(c) *With close reference to the last five paragraphs of the extract and in not more than 60 words, trace Michael's descent from the top of the ball to the foot of the spire.*

[8]

(d) *Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). State a reason to justify your choice.*

[2]

Answer.

(a) (i) Startle—surprise

(ii) Casual—usual

(iii) grasp—hold

(b) (i) Michael was just passing his time in the market place, idling around looking for something naughty to do. Suddenly he saw long ladders resting on the ground, reaching up to the church spire.

(ii) Michael was looking for some mischief. On seeing the spire of the church, crowned by a golden ball and weather vane, an idea entered his mind. He wanted to be the first person in this town of Flushing to stand on the golden ball beneath the weather vane.

(iii) Michael managed to stand on top of the golden ball, holding on to the weather vane. This required much courage and therefore he showed that "he had a cool head and iron nerves."

- (iv) The sight of people rushing out of their shops in the market place and crowding below to watch him standing on top of the church, made Michael extremely delighted.
- (v) Michael did not wait for rescue because that would have been a shameful end to his brave act. He decided to come down alone even if it cost him his life.
- (vi) The principal said to me, "If your attendance is less than seventy percent then you must face the consequences."

(c)

Michael clasped his arms round the top of the ball and let his body slip down till his foot reached slatted spire. He kicked with his iron toe-caps till the slate crashed and Michael got a foothold on the wooden laths below. Slowly he slid his hands on the ball and reached its base. Kicking the stairway he slipped down.

(60 words)

- (d) "A Narrow Escape" is the title of the Summary. It was a very narrow or dangerous escape as Michael could have died at any step.

Question 4.

- (a) In the following passage, 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 : (0) am convinced.
 I (0) (convince) that my father (1) (remember) by all those who value integrity. He (2) (be) a man of learning and also saw to it that he (3) (teach) his pupils with passion and patience. He, at times (4) (use) to lose his temper, but that was because he always (5) (want) his pupils to learn and learn well. As a person, he was honest and simple. His greatness (6) (lie) in the fact that he (7) (have) a pure heart, devoid of malice. Such a man is always valued and (8) (be) very rare to find.

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words : [4]
 - (i) Truth always prevails the long run.
 - (ii) Sujata stood the river and saw the ship pass by.
 - (iii) She took some money her father to buy a video game.
 - (iv) Shilpa gave me a rare gift my birthday.
 - (v) Deepak was very upset me.
 - (vi) Michael is longing meet me.
 - (vii) It has been a long time I met my sister.
 - (viii) The worker asked his wages.

It so happened that the Eklavya stadium in Agra, my home town, was packed to capacity. Not surprising as spectators had come from near and far to watch the India-Pakistan under nineteen cricket match. The Indian team won to toss and opted to bat scoring a hundred and sixty-two runs in fifty overs. The Pakistan team scored ninety runs in just ten overs. Indian supporters began to panic. The Pakistani supporters began to shout anti Indian slogans. Someone threw a clock bottle and a supporter was badly wounded. It took minutes for the entire stadium to transform into a battle ground.

The scene was so horrendous that people who did not want to indulge in this fight were pushed to take sides. Most of the spectators were young and energetic and therefore were catalyzed to participate in the ensuing battle. The player tried to appeal to the crowds to subside this maddening battle but it seems the supporters were ready for a game of their own. It was absolutely chaotic to see such senseless fighting among supporters. I never knew a simple game of twenty two players could cause such emotional outburst. Objects were being hurled at one another, shoes, sticks, bottles and stones many were injured. Spectators outside the stadium made there way in and guns began to be fired it was pandemonium. People were shouting and screaming. The player of course were taken to a secure place. Ravi Mohanti of the Indian side was injured by a coke can that someone threw at him. This created more panic.

The police had to call for other reinforcements to quell the anger of the crowd. Investigations would reveal nothing because this was a case of emotional outburst due to mob fury. The police did arrive and tried to quell down the anger of the mob by their brutalities. The protester began attacking the police. It took almost one hour and much reinforcement by the police and paramilitary forces to control the crowd.

There were many injured and had to be rushed to the hospital. A few were arrested. The D.M. and SSP arrived at the scene and described the incident as shameful. I am sure that no one would like to see such a chaotic match. However the experience is definitely an important one and will always remain in my memory.

- (b) Rohit is now happy. His parents left their ancestral home where he lived with his noisy cousins. His parents have shifted to a cosy flat and his mother goes out to work. Now every Saturday they go out and spend much time together. This is just one example where the joint family system is giving way to the unclar family.

The nuclear family has brought in many changes. Children have turned independent and have learnt to flaunt their riches. In joint families all entertainment is within the family unit. Children are not pampered and have to obey not only parents but elder cousins unless and aunts. Freedom is restricted and decisions are usually taken from the grand parents. Of course the house are quite noisy and there is always the element of jealousy and criticism that hampers growth rather than helps the child to explore individual talent.

Every family has its own traditions which may be good or bad. However adherence to such in modern times could be painful. Women should not work outside the house. This may not seem quite relevant today. In a nuclear family the adjust must isn't much because there are only three or four members but in a joint family the adjustment could break ones back with everyone getting on to each others nerves.

Now festivals are also celebrated with things purchased rather than homemade sweets. Life has become fast paced with people working hard because they know they have to fulfil their desires by their own labour and not depend on others. Family relationships have even grown stranger uncles and aunts pay visit encourage the children of the house and most of all support each other better. No longer do members of the family take each other for granted. The family is no longer a place for the upbringing of children and quiet evenings or family dinners where all cook together and then enjoy a meal till late in the evening. In earlier times it was difficult for a single person to manage even a small party. Apart from the crockery people had to cook and would be just exhausted at the end of the party. Today things have changed' single phone call can bring the best caterer at ones doorstep and hurray the party is arranged. All social meetings are now moving out of the homes and gatherings are now in banquet halls or hotels and restaurants.

Another change that has occurred in recent times is the development of communication systems in the homes. The way people communicate has become quicker and easier. Whenever in need there is no need to wake up ones neighbours all we need to do is call an expert. This era of the nuclear family is thus possible as facilities are at ones door step and one does not really need others. A good pay packet is sufficient.

A very significant change of the nuclear family is a desire to be independent so that no one interferes with them. A change that has come is that the families now boast of things and material possessions whereas earlier it was members of the family that matter. The nuclear family is dangerous it only uses people and does not know how to maintain lasting friendship and relationship so that people become more important than things.

- (c) Computer will never replace books. However useful the computer be, it is absurd to imagine it replacing books. Computer any day are far more expensive than books and do not work on fresh air but power through batteries and mains. One cannot lie in bed and read them leisurely and of course if milk or syrup spills on them the damage could be much more.

Computers need a special environment to function in. They cannot be ill treated and no matter how much we may debate computers as not completely reliable. Viruses attacks and software suddenly developing problems and then it is so easy for someone to wreck all your work in seconds. On paper you need a shredder to do the job at a quick space. Even if you burn a book the residue will remain but the computer only needs a delete button to erase the entire matter. Computers are quick. Quick to build and equally quick to destroy. This is why every sensible person uses computers but will not do away with the tactile, useful, cheap, and practical paper. There is something about paper that gives us a lasting more permanent, authentic look. You cannot sign an oath or submit an electronic affidavit. House papers cannot be considered valid if there is no paper.

Computer have viruses and are not completely dependable but a book in a shelf is very dependable. It does not make you strain your eyes as computers. If I would write a novel it would be in paper. An e-novel can be tampered and I would never know the original unless I have the printed one with me. A book somehow has a belongingness. We can make our notes as well as turn to specific pages without really having much problems. One can sleep with a book on our bedside and wake up in the morning to read it.

A book is culturally suited. Can you imagine the outrage that Sikhs may have to do away with the Guru Granth Sahib and replace it with a laptop or desktop. The Sikhs will never bow to this electronic device. Just imagine if the Bible, Gita, and Kuran were only available in electronics script. People would be outraged and no one would really relish the spiritual significance of a book.

Students are the most creative while playing pranks. Instead of studying they would simply play the fool. Watch movies and play video games. Very often to make truant kids study parents make them write matter several times. On the computer there is no such option. Students will simply copy-paste and the matter is complete. The pride of a Library and collecting first edition as well as autographed books of the author will have no relevance. A book reveals the nature of a person but with a computer no one knows who is an avid reader and who is not.

The printed book can be easily read and stored. Students can write their notes and refer to them. They can easily be destroyed and can be upgraded. The computer troubles its users while a book is perfect relaxation. The joy of placing your hands on a book and reading through its pages is ecstatic.

Books can never be replaced. No one is going to put computers into the hands of kindergarten students and then the rural areas can just about afford books imagine the cost of dishing out computers to every aspirant of knowledge so lets forget about such an idea and live realistically. Books may have their limitation but they can never be superseded by computers. No one wants to loose the joy of reading a book. And at the end pronouncing to oneself that, "It is finished".

- (d) Rakesh Ahuja had just arrived from Denmark. He was working in a pharmaceutical company and went to Denmark on a sales promotion campaign. This was his first visit abroad and the first man to go abroad in the locality so the neighbours converged to here tales of this "phoren" land and taste a chocolate. The evening was delightful as all wanted to here tales of Denmark and how their little town boy was doing in a developed country. Among the various subjects that Rakesh spoke about he told them about bird flu. And how people in Denmark are grappling with the problem. He told them that it occurred like a simple flu and would then kill a person. It was a deadly disease in which the Government of Denmark has taken many precautions including the culling of many birds. The disease is caused by eating chicken.

That evening Rakesh had a mild headache and went to meet his family doctor. Mr. Harish met him there and had a casual conversation. Later that evening when the neighbours go together in the park for their usual chat. They spoke about bird flue and Harish mentioned he met Rakesh at the doctor. The people somehow began to joke about Rakesh having bird flue and how his house should be sealed off. The woman of the colony over heard this conversation and the rumour was born. Yes, just then a rumour on bird flu was born and before morning people were talking about it. Cleaning their kitchens of any poultry products. The local chicken seller suddenly experienced a major drop in sales and began to panic. He tried to use a management technique to encourage customer to his shop and therefore he put up a board announcing 25% discount. The announcement further strengthened the rumour and not only were his chickens not sold. People began to speak about bird flu and how chicken sellers in the city are trying to get rid of their stock. The entire city was talking about

bird flu. People created all kinds of rumours about bird flu and believed that the city was suffering from the malady.

The next day the Chief Medical Officer published a statement in the newspaper that Bird Flu was not a threat. He said that there have been no reports of bird flu and people should consume chicken without any fear. This caption was in the headlines of the newspapers and the city cables also ran stories on it. The more the Government said, there was no fear of bird flu the more the people feared it. Poor neighbourhoods those who kept birds were forced to do away with them. They killed the birds and threw them. The matter was reported that birds were found dead. Due to the change in climate children began to suffer from colds and panic struck. No one knew when the rumour began but it spread and every statement against it only affirmed it to the believers of rumours.

Doctors suddenly began to treat patients asking them to avoid eating meat. The people of course began to think the Doctors made stay away from chicken. All kinds of stories were invented and channels began to run entire interviews on people who have rejected chicken. As well as the good and the bad of eating meat. No one really knew how to curtail the menace. Restaurants, hotels, small shops were all incurring heavy losses. They all began to protest. That's when the police came in and began to investigate all rumours. No one was caught. No one knew how the rumours started. But it took three months to quell down. This is the power of a rumour. We should be very careful before we speak about something negative.

(e) **Wind Surfing**

The blue water were irresistible. Movin Sharma could hardly believe that back home in India in the waters of Goa wind-surfing and parasailing all in Switzerland. Yes, Movin Sharma was a second generation emigrant to Switzerland. He had loved the land that gave him power. Enough money to make the mare talk at least in India.

Adventure sports was in Movin's blood. His grand father used to flight with bulls in a village near Noida. He so worked as a gardener and so made his way to Switzerland in the good old days when the saab's took their servants along. Things have changed and Movin hardly associates himself to the humble beginning. On his crop to India Movin was given the luxury of paradise and all the attention which actually got on to his nerves at times but the attention did make him glow at times.

Movin Sharma began Lessons on wind surfing and picked it up within a day. Just a week later he was sailing like a professional orchestrating delicate moves and negotiating breathtaking turns. No one believed that a Swiss born could come to India and learn the sport in a couple of days and then do so well.

Movin was obsessed by his new sport. He purchased his yacht which was superior than the hired ones and then he began to orchestrate the most difficult moves. He loved the sea at night the serenity with the reflection the stars and moon. He knew it was wrong but he did the unspeakable. Yes, Movin ventured out into the sea, rode the waves and relished the breeze that he used to advantage as he moved deeper into the sea away from the shore.

Movin had never enjoyed the sea in such a manner. He wanted to be just on his own. Playing with the waves that made his yacht go up and down just like while he was on a camel ride in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Even then he had gone out all alone on a camel enjoying the evening but this was different. The sheer thrill of life without any support amused him. He knew there was no danger in the

sea yet the darkness and rising waves somehow frightened him. He enjoyed this fear just like a boy does when he goes up and down on a giant wheel or on a roller coaster.

Just when Movin was enjoying himself the waves began to rise. He turned back. Tried to shout for help as he found himself helpless but he was too far to be heard.

The sunlight exposed a overturned yacht like a speck far into the sea. The alarm was raised. Movin was missing. A search party was set. After seven long hours his body was found. The people turned out to see him. Everyone admired this young, energetic, lively and happily man whose love for adventure had taken him away.

Question 2.

[10]

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

Select ONE of the following :

- (a) *Recently you went to a restaurant for dinner and there you saw your favourite sports star. You had an opportunity of spending some moments with him or her. In a letter to your friend give a brief account of your memorable meeting with the sports star.*
- (b) *Your cousin is missing from home. Write a letter to the Superintendent of Police of your locality, requesting him to trace your cousin. Give all relevant details that may help the police department.*

Answer.

- (a) 9, Raghu Vir Kunj
Behind Civil Courts
Agra

2nd March, 2006

Dear Kavita,

You will never believe what I'm about to tell you. It's true. I met Sania Mirza !! Yesterday was my father's birthday so we went to Pizza Hut and then I realized we were on a table next to Sania Mirza. I told her how much I admired her but she was simple and told me it was hard work and labour that gave her success. She gave me her autographed picture. I did click a few photographs with her. I will send them to you as soon as they are developed.

Convey my regards to uncle and aunt and tell them about my experience.

Yours loving friend,

Daphne

- (b) 21, Lajpat Kunj,
M.G. Road,
Agra

3rd March, 2006

The Superintendent of Police
Hari Parvat Thana
Agra

Sir,

This is to request for your help in tracing my missing cousin Hari Sadu.

Hari went for coaching classes at 4 p.m. yesterday and has not returned. He is fifteen years old, five feet six inches tall. He is well built and is fair with blue eyes. He was wearing jeans and a red T-shirt and lives in the same residence as we are a joint family.

I request that you use your good office to help. We all are very worried and his mother is anxious.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

(Mukesh Sadu)

Question. 3.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

There came to our town some years ago a showman who owned an institution called the Gaiety Land. Overnight, our Gymkhana Grounds became *resplendent* with banners and streamers and coloured lamps. From all over the district, crowds poured into the show. Within a week of opening, in gate money, they collected five hundred rupees a day. Gaiety Land provided us with all sorts of fun and gambling and side-shows. For a couple of annas, in each booth, we could watch anything from performing parrots to crack motor cyclists. In addition to this, there were lotteries and shooting galleries, where, for an anna, you always stood a chance of winning a hundred rupees.

There was a particular corner of the show which was in great favour. Here, for a ticket costing eight annas, you could be lucky enough to acquire a variety of articles—pin cushions, sewing machines or even a road engine. One evening, they drew a ticket, number 1005, and I happened to own the other half of the ticket. Glancing down the list of articles, they declared that I had become the owner of a road engine !

I looked *stunned*. people gathered around and gazed at me as if I were some sort of a curious animal. Some people muttered and giggled, "Fancy anyone becoming the owner of a road engine !"

It was not the sort of prize one could carry home at short notice. I asked the showman if he could help me to transport it. He merely pointed at a notice which decreed that all the winners should remove their prizes immediately after the draw and by their own effort. However, they had to make an exception in my case. They agreed to keep the engine at the Gymkhana Grounds till the end of the season, and then, I would have to make my own arrangements to take it out.

When I asked the showman if he could find me a driver, he just smiled and said, "The fellow who brought it here had to be paid a hundred rupees for the job and five rupees a day. I sent him away and made up my mind that if no one was going to draw it, I would just leave it to its fate."

"Can't I sell it to some municipality?" I asked innocently. He burst into a laugh. "As a showman I have enough trouble with municipal people. I would rather keep out of the way."

My friends and relatives poured in, to congratulate me on my latest *acquisition*. No one knew precisely how much a road engine would fetch, all

the same they felt that there was a lot of money in it. "Even if you sell it as scrap iron, you can make a few thousands," some of my friends declared. Everyday I made a trip to the Gymkhana Grounds to have a look at my engine. I grew very fond of it. I loved its shining brass parts. I stood near it and patted it affectionately, hovered about it, and returned home everyday only at the close of the show. I thought all my troubles were coming to an end. How ignorant I was! How little did I guess that my troubles had just begun!

- (a) *Three words from the passage are given below. Give the meaning of each word as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.* [3]
- resplendent (line 2)
 - stunned (line 16)
 - acquisition (line 34)
- (b) *Answer the following questions briefly in your own words*
- Which two sentences in the first paragraph show that Gaiety Land was popular? [2]
 - Give three reasons for the popularity of Gaiety Land. [3]
 - What is meant by 'it was not the sort of prize one could carry home at short notice?' [2]
 - What was the showman's response to the narrator asking for help to transport the road engine? [3]
 - Why was the showman ready to leave the road engine to its fate? [2]
- (c) *In not more than 60 words, describe the reactions of the public, friends and relatives towards the narrator on his winning the road engine. How did he treat his proud possession?* [8]
- (d) *Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). State a reason to justify your choice.* [2]

Answer.

- (a) (i) resplended—wonderful, beautiful
 (ii) stunned—shocked
 (iii) acquisition—to own, purchase, receive, acquire.
- (b) (i) The two sentences in the first paragraph that show Gaiety Land was popular are :
- From all over the district, crowds poured into the show.
 - Within a week of opening, in gate money, they collected five hundred rupees a day.
- (ii) The three reasons for Gaiety Land's popularity are :
- The grounds were wonderfully decorated with banners, streamers and coloured lamps.
 - For a few annas one could enjoy performing tricks etc.
 - For an anna, a person stood a chance to win a hundred rupees.
- (iii) The road engine was not the kind of prize that could be taken home immediately. Much preparation is involved to transport it.
- (iv) The showman only pointed to the notice which said that prizes were to be immediately removed by the winners own efforts.
- (v) Transporting the road engine was too expensive and therefore if no one won it the showman was ready to just leave it and go.
- (c) The Public congratulated and admired the
 narrator some mocked at his
 winning a road engine friend and

relatives	said	he	would	fetch
thousand	in	scrap	iron	if
sold	The	narrator	would	admire
his	engine	and	began	to
love	each	part	of	it
He	patted	the	engine	and
only	returned	home	after	the
show	closed.	He	thought	all
his	troubles	were	then	over.

- (d) 'True lies' is the title of the summary. Although winning the road engine was a truth the joy of doing so was a lie as it would cause more problems than delight.

Question 4.

- (a) In the following passage, 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 : (0) giving.

Mid-afternoon while (0) (give) my report to Mrs. Biggs, I (1) (hear) a loud thumping (2) (come) from the direction of her store room.

"What (3) (be) all that noise downstairs?" I asked.

"Probably a rat. I don't hear anything" she replied.

I ran downstairs and (4) (open) the store room door. There was Mr. Biggs (5) (look) very dusty and very disgruntled; he wanted to know why Mrs. Biggs (6) (shut) him up for hours. He had gone into the store room in search of a walking stick and Mrs. Biggs, (7) (see) the door open, had promptly (8) (bolt) it.

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words : [4]

(i) He refused to put with their interference in his affairs.

(ii) She has been going the script for days.

(iii) It is our duty to protest injustice.

(iv) He soon became accustomed the harsh weather.

(v) Dilip went out his way to help the poor.

(vi) He was able to put his ideas so cleverly that he impressed everyone.

(vii) He persists teasing the other children in the class.

(viii) I have been waiting for you four o'clock.

- (c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. [4]

(i) Sahil composed a wonderful song. It became a hit.

(ii) Rani reached the spot. We were to meet there.

(iii) Dick met me. I gave him the document.

(iv) Shenaz was very upset. I wanted to help her out.

- (d) Re-write 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) As soon as the Chief Guest arrived, the band started playing.

(Begin : No sooner)

(ii) He went to the library and to the bank.

(Begin : Not only)

- (iii) Though he is very poor, he helps others in need.
(Begin : In spite)
- (iv) He does not intend to leave the company.
(Use : intention)
- (v) "Do you want some more ice-cream or a slice of cake ?" asked my aunt.
(Begin : My aunt asked)
- (vi) They are painting to mural on the front wall.
(Begin : A mural.....)
- (vii) Tansen was the best singer in Akbar's court.
(Use : Better)
- (viii) You remembered to buy a loaf of bread, didn't you ?
(Begin : You didn't)

Answer.

- (a) (1) heard (2) coming (3) is (4) opened
(5) looking (6) had shut (7) seeing (8) bolted
- (b) (i) up (ii) through (iii) against (iv) to
(v) on (vi) up (vii) on (viii) since.
- (c) (i) Sahil composed a wonderful hit song.

Or

- Sahil composed a wonderful song which became a hit.
(ii) Rani reached the spot where we were supposed to meet.
(iii) I gave the document to Dick.

Or

- I gave the document to Dick when he met me.
(iv) Shenaz was very upset therefore I wanted to help her out.

Or

I wanted to help Shenaz because she was very upset.

Or

As Shenaz looked upset, I wanted to help her out.

- (d) (i) No sooner did the Chief Guest arrive than the band started playing.

Or

No sooner had the Chief Guest arrived than the band started playing.

- (ii) Not only did he go to the library but also to the bank.

- (iii) In spite of his being very poor he helps others in need.

Or

In spite of being very poor he helps others in need.

- (iv) He does not carry the intention of leaving the company.

Or

His intention is not to leave the company.

- (v) My aunt asked me if/whether I wanted some more ice-cream or a slice of cake.

- (vi) A mural is being painted on the front wall by them.

- (vii) Tansen was better than any other singer in Akbar's court.

Or

Tansen was better than many other singers in Akbar's court.

- (viii) You didn't forget to buy a loaf of bread, didn't you ?