

**ENGLISH PAPER 1**  
**(LANGUAGE)**

*(Maximum Marks: 100)*

*(Time allowed: Three hours)*

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

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*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 50 minutes on Question 1, 40 minutes on  
Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and 1 hour on Question 4.)  
(You should begin each answer on a fresh page.)*

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**Question 1**

Write a composition (in approximately 450-500 words) on any **one** of the following [30] subjects:

(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.)

- (a) Describe any three important lessons that you have learnt through the course of your life. How did you learn these lessons and why do you think they are so important?
- (b) Relate how the reading of literature has enriched and refined you.
- (c) 'Every cloud has a silver lining'.  
Express your views on the above statement.
- (d) Deception.
- (e) Argue for or against the statement: 'We live in deeds and not in years'.
- (f) Write an original short story beginning with the following words:  
'The voice was familiar but I could not recognise the face.....'

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**This Paper consists of 6 printed pages.**

**Question 2**

Imagine that you are the Head Boy/Head Girl of ABC Public School. You have to deliver a speech at the Farewell Party organized by your juniors. Prepare a suitable speech for the occasion using the notes given below: [20]

Years spent – early memories – association with juniors – skills acquired – values learnt – memorable moment – gratitude to teachers – message for juniors – future plans – thanks giving.

**Question 3**

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

- (a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, while sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar as possible to sentence A. Write sentence B in each case. [10]

Example:

- (0) (A) No sooner had the match finished than it began to rain.  
(B) Hardly.....

Answer: (0) Hardly had the match finished when it began to rain.

- (1) (A) If he does not run fast, he will lose the race.  
(B) Unless.....
- (2) (A) Nobody knew much about his plans for the future.  
(B) Little.....
- (3) (A) On seeing the rat, she shrieked.  
(B) As soon as .....
- (4) (A) You must never tell a lie.  
(B) Under no circumstances .....
- (5) (A) The boss said, "What an extraordinary success!"  
(B) The boss exclaimed.....
- (6) (A) It is too cold for me to step out without a shawl.  
(B) It is so.....
- (7) (A) I play both tennis and squash.  
(B) Not only.....

- (8) (A) The school team lost the cricket match although the captain scored a century.  
 (B) Despite the fact.....
- (9) (A) Charles Dickens is the most interesting writer.  
 (B) No other.....
- (10) (A) They had to shut down the computers before leaving the office.  
 (B) The computers .....

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.) [5]

- (1) After the argument, his friends turned \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
 (2) Ramesh turned \_\_\_\_\_ his father for help.  
 (3) The Headmaster will look \_\_\_\_\_ the cheating case.  
 (4) I look \_\_\_\_\_ to my grandfather for what he has achieved.  
 (5) She takes \_\_\_\_\_ her mother; she has her lovely green eyes.  
 (6) Ramesh has taken \_\_\_\_\_ computers like a duck to water.  
 (7) Will you entrust him \_\_\_\_\_ that message?  
 (8) He is dishonest; you must not entrust any important job \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
 (9) Do not put \_\_\_\_\_ till tomorrow what you can do today.  
 (10) I put \_\_\_\_\_ at my friend's house for the night.

(c) 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]

I \_\_\_\_\_ (1)(realise) that I \_\_\_\_\_ (2)(know) one of the two men by sight, and I \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (spend) a few seconds thinking why he \_\_\_\_\_ (4)(seek) me out on a Sunday afternoon.

During this pause, three small boys \_\_\_\_\_ (5)(walk) up the passage from the house behind me, \_\_\_\_\_ (6)(thread) a way around me and the two men outside, and silently \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (climb) like cats up into a tree in the middle of the lawn outside. There, the three figures \_\_\_\_\_ (8)(rest), \_\_\_\_\_ (9)(become) immobile, \_\_\_\_\_ (10)(lie) on their stomachs, deep in a secret game.

#### Question 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

- (1) Inside the cockpit of the World War II Mosquito plane, I could make out, against the light of the moon, the muffled head of its pilot and the twin circles of his goggles as he looked out of the side window towards me. Carefully he raised his right hand till I could see it in the window, fingers straight, **palm** downwards. He jabbed the fingers forward and down, meaning that we were going to descend and that I should follow him. 5
- (2) I nodded and quickly brought up my own left hand so he could see it, first pointing forwards to my own control panel with one forefinger, and then holding up my five spread fingers. Finally I drew my hand across my throat. By common agreement this sign meant that I had only five minutes fuel left, and then my engine would cut out. I saw the muffled, goggled, oxygen-masked head nod in understanding, and then we were heading downwards towards the sheet of fog. 10
- (3) My plane stopped trembling and plunged ahead of the Mosquito. I pulled back on the throttle, hearing the engine die to a low whistle, and the other pilot was back beside me. We were diving straight towards the shrouded **land**. I glanced at my altimeter: two thousand feet, still diving. 15
- (4) He pulled out at three hundred feet. The fog was still below us. Probably the fog bank was only from the ground to two hundred feet up, but that was more than enough to prevent a plane from landing without guidance. I could imagine the **stream** of instructions coming from the radar hut into the earphones of the man flying beside me, eighty feet away. I kept my eyes on him, following as closely as possible, afraid of losing sight for an instant, watching for his every hand-signal. Two minutes later he held up his clenched left fist in the window, then opened the fist to splay all five fingers against the glass, indicating that I should lower the undercarriage. I moved the lever downwards and felt the dull thunk as all three wheels went down, happily powered by hydraulic pressure and not dependent on the failed electrical system. 20 25
- (5) The pilot of the shepherd aircraft pointed down again, for another descent. I managed to flick a glance at my fuel gauge: it was on zero, flickering feebly. For God's sake, hurry up, I prayed, for if my fuel failed me now there would be no time to climb to the minimum five hundred feet needed for bailing out. A jet fighter at one hundred feet without an engine is a death-trap with no chances for survival. 30 35

- (6) For two or three minutes he seemed content to hold his position, while the sweat broke out behind my neck and began to run in streams down my back, sticking the light nylon flying suit to my skin.
- (7) Quite suddenly he straightened out, so fast I almost lost him. I caught him a second later and saw his left hand flash the dive signal to me. Then he dipped towards the fog bank, I followed, and we were in it, a shallow, flat descent, but a descent nevertheless, and from a mere hundred feet, towards nothing. 40

Adapted from *The Shepherd* by Fredrick Forsyth

- (a) (i) Given below are four words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [4]
- (1) go down
  - (2) covered
  - (3) instrument
  - (4) satisfied
- (ii) 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: [4]
- (1) palm (*line 5*)
  - (2) land (*line 17*)
  - (3) stream (*line 21*)
  - (4) bank (*line 41*)
- (b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible:
- (i) What was the first instruction of the pilot of the Mosquito plane? [2]
  - (ii) What was the narrator's reply? [3]
  - (iii) How did the other pilot let the narrator know that the wheels had to be lowered? [2]
  - (iv) Why did the narrator begin to pray towards the end? [3]

(c) Describe how the pilot of the Mosquito aircraft guided the narrator to land, in not more than 100 words (Paragraphs 3 to 7). Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. You will be required to:

(i) List your ideas clearly in point form. [6]

(ii) In about 100 words, write your points in the form of a connected passage. [6]