

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, DEHRADUN
RETEST FIRST TERM EXAMINATION OCTOBER, 2023-24

SUBJECT: ENGLISH PAPER I

CLASS: XII

M.M. 80 TIME 3 HOURS

NAME OF THE STUDENT.....

.....CLASS/SECTION.....ROLL NO... ..

Reading Time: 15 minutes

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 the orderly and coherent presentation of the matter, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

- (i) Describe your experience of a Cultural Exchange Programme you attended recently in a foreign country. Give a detailed account of the people you met there from various parts of the world, your interaction with them, your emotions, and overall impression of the programme.
- (ii) Many tourists were recently stranded in different tourist destinations in Uttarakhand due to the torrential rain. Being a member of an NGO named 'Help India', you helped the victims in overcoming the various problems. Narrate your experience and the lessons people learned from this experience.
- (ii) Friends on social media platforms are more real than real friends. Express your views either **FOR** or **AGAINST** the given statement.
- (iv) Introspection
- (v) Distance makes the heart grow fonder. Present your reflections on this statement.
- (vi) Write an original short story that begins with the following words: 'With unflinching faith in the Almighty and the power of His prayers, Ellen moved ahead.....'

Question 2.

- (i) Your school recently hosted the Josephite Premier League. Write a magazine report in about 300 words on the match using the points given below.
Date, place and time-arrangements made- Chief Guest- the teams pitted against each other-details of the match- results and awards- reaction of the audience- media coverage
(You may include other relevant details).

[15]

- (ii) As the President of the Innovation club of the XYZ School, you have been given the responsibility of organising an Inter School Innovative Science Project Competition. 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

Answer: (z) The plants were revived by the heavy showers of rain.

- (a) (I) Preeti scored highest marks even though she had been sick during her examination.
(II) In spite of
- (b) (I) As soon as the school reopened after the summer break, the District Magistrate ordered the schools to close due to heavy rain.
(II) No sooner.....
- (c) (I) Dia never goes out of the way to help others.
(II) Never.....
- (d) (I) Only a fool would believe you.
(II) None
- (e) (I) If Dev returns the books on time, he will not have to pay a fine in the library.
(II) Unless.....
- (ii) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.) [5]
- (a) The lecturer gave us a talk _____ the career options available after the course.
(b) She will talk _____ him to sort the issue.
(c) My mother flew _____ a rage when I broke her favourite vase.
(d) A beautiful sparrow flew _____ her head.
(e) This job is too important to be put _____ till tomorrow.
(f) He put the dictionary _____ on the shelf after he had finished the crossword.
(g) The rest of the staff backed her _____ when she complained about the working conditions.
(h) He backed _____ two days before the holiday, so we gave the ticket to his sister.
(i) She came _____ a lot of money when her grandmother died.
(j) The details of the scandal came _____ in the press and she had to resign.

- (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]

When I was leaving Montreal, I decided to stop at one of those rest areas on the side of the road. I _____ (1) (go) into the washroom. The first stall _____ (2) (take), so I went into the second stall. I _____ (3) (has) just sat down when I _____ (4) (hear) a voice from the other stall. "Hi there, how is it going?" I _____ (5) (think) to myself, "What the hell?" Okay, I _____ (6) (be) not the type to strike up conversations with strangers in the loos on the side of the road. Not _____ (7) (know) what to say, I finally said, "Not bad." Then the voice said, "So, what are you doing?" I started to find this a bit weird and very uncomfortable, but I finally replied with "Well, I am going back east."

Then I heard the person, all _____ (8) (fluster), saying, "Look, I'll call you back, honey. Every time I ask you a question, this idiot in the next stall _____ (9) (keep) answering." A harsh silence fell through the washroom. I must tell you I _____ (10) (relief) when the person left. But never before had I felt so stupid! Okay, cell phones, you win this round!

Question 4.

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

- (1) When the Count reached the lobby before he could continue to the barbershop, his eyes were drawn to a willowy figure coming through the hotel's doors. But then all eyes in the lobby were drawn to her. A tall woman in her mid-20s with arched eyebrows and auburn hair, she was indisputably striking. And as she approached the front desk, she walked with a breezy sureness as seemingly unaware of the feathers **projecting** from her hat as of the bell-hops dragging her luggage behind her. But what guaranteed her position as the natural center of attention were the two borzois she had on leash.
- (2) In an instant, the Count could see that they were magnificent beasts. Their **coats** silver, their loins lean, their every sense alert, these dogs had been raised to give chase in the cold October air with a hunting party hot on their heels. And at the day's end? They were meant to sit at the feet of their master before a fire in a Manor house-not adorn the hands of a Willow in the lobby of a grand hotel.

- (3) The injustice of this was not lost on the dogs. As their mistress addressed Arkady at the front desk, they tugged every which way, sniffing about for familiar landmarks.
- (4) "Stop it!" the Willow commanded in a surprisingly husky voice. Then she yanked in a manner that showed she had no more familiarity with the wolfhounds on her leashes than she had with the birds that had feathered her hat.
- (5) The Count gave the situation the shake of the head it deserved. But as he turned to go, he noticed with some amusement that a slender shadow suddenly jumped from behind a wingback chair to the edge of one of the potted palms. It was none other than Field Marshal Kutuzov attaining higher ground to take measure of his foes. When the dogs turned their heads in unison with their ears upright, the one-eyed cat slipped behind the trunk of the tree. Then having satisfied himself that the dogs were securely tethered, the cat alit from the palm to the floor and without even bothering to arch his back, opened his little jaws and hissed.
- (6) With a terrific volley of barking, the dogs leapt to the extent of their leashes, tugging their mistress from the front desk as the ledger pen clattered to the floor.
- (7) "Whoa," she shouted. "Whoa!"
- (8) Apparently unfamiliar with equine commands, the wolfhounds leapt again and freeing themselves from the willow's grip, scrambled toward their prey.
- (9) Kutuzov was off like a shot. Slipping under the western embankment of lobby chairs, the one-eyed cat dashed toward the front door, as if intending to escape into the street. Without a moment's hesitation, the dogs gave chase. Opting for a pincer movement, they split at the potted palms and pursued the cat on opposite sides of the chairs in the hopes of cutting him off at the door. A lamp that blocked the path of the first round was knocked to the floor in a shower of sparks, while a standing ashtray that blocked the second was sent over heels discharging a cloud of dust.
- (10) But as the dogs were closing ranks, Kutuzov suddenly reversed course. Cutting in front of a coffee table, he dashed under the eastern embankment of lobby chairs and headed back towards the staircase. Just as the wolfhounds registered the cat's reversal and attempted to turn, the lobby's expansive oriental carpet came to an end, and the dog's momentum sent them skidding across the marble floor into the luggage of an arriving guest.
- (11) With an advantage over his adversaries of a hundred feet, Kutuzov skipped up the first few steps of the staircase, paused for a moment to admire his handiwork, then disappeared around the corner.

Adapted from- A Gentleman in Moscow

By Amor Towles

- (i) (a) Given below are three words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage: [3]

- (1) reddish brown
- (2) inarguably
- (3) fastened by a rope

- (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) projecting (line 5)

- (A) The gas jet projecting from the wall above the fireplace filled the room with a greenish glow
- (B) I would not go projecting off into the woods alone.
- (C) I placed my coat on a loose brick projecting from the wall.
- (D) I suspect he is projecting his fears in front of you.

(2) coats (line 8)

- (A) His big dogs are known for their lovely pale coats and look very glamorous.
- (B) The cookies were thickly coated with chocolate.
- (C) The dotted coats of these sheep look beautiful.
- (D) The house needed three coats to cover the original paint.

(3) head (line 18)

- (A) She turned her head away from him.
- (B) We shall head out at seven tomorrow so don't be late.
- (C) It is not clear how many of them will head back to Saudi Arabia tomorrow.
- (D) We took our place at the head of the convoy.

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

- (a) What drew everyone's attention to the lady who entered the hotel?
- (b) How did the Count find the two borzois misfit in the present location?
- (c) What agitated the dogs and how?

[2]

[2]

[2]

(iii) Summarise how the two borzois chased Kutuzov and the outcome of it as mentioned in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11. 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.

[8]