



ENGLISH

Paper 1

(Two hours)

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*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/or writing the answers.

*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 35 minutes in answering **Question 1**
and 20 minutes in answering **Question 2**.*

Question 1

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

[25]

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

- (a) Write a short story in which a little girl, her twin brother and the school bully are the main characters.
- (b) "No other subject taught in school is as important as Moral Science". Express your views **either** for **or** against this statement.
- (c) Elements of Western Culture have had a very influential role on cultures of the world. How are these elements different from those of Indian culture? What according to you, should we as Indians adopt from the West to make life more meaningful.
- (d) A village fair is very different from a city one. It is usually held annually and is connected with a religious festival or harvest. The purpose of such fairs is usually trade and to exhibit and sell village handicrafts. Describe one such fair.

This Paper consists of 6 printed pages.

Question 3

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

Sita went to her grandfather and sat down beside him.

'When you are hungry, tell me,' she said, 'and I will make the bread.'

'Is your grandmother asleep?'

'Yes. But she will wake soon. The pain is deep.'

The old man stared across the river, at the dark green of the forest, at the leaden sky, and said, 'If she is not better by morning, I will take her to the hospital in Shahganj. They will know how to make her well. You may be on your own for two or three days. You have been on your own before.' 5

Sita nodded gravely — she had been alone before; but not in the middle of the rains with the river so high. But she knew that someone must stay behind. She wanted Grandmother to get well and she knew that only Grandfather could take the small boat across the river when the current was so strong. 10

Sita was not afraid of being left alone but she did not like the look of the river.

That evening it began to rain again. Big pellets of rain were scarring the surface of the river. But it was warm rain and Sita could move about in it. She was not afraid of getting wet, she rather liked it. In the previous month, when the monsoon shower had arrived, washing the dusty leaves of the tree and bringing up the good smell of the earth, she had exulted in it, had run about shouting for joy. She was used to it now, even a little tired of the rain, but she did not mind getting wet. It was steamy indoors and her thin dress would soon dry in the heat from the kitchen fire. 20

She walked about barefooted, barelegged. She was very sure on her feet. Her toes had grown accustomed to gripping all kinds of rocks, slippery or sharp, and though thin, she was surprisingly strong. 25

Black hair, streaming across her face. Black eyes. Slim brown arms. A scar on her thigh: when she was small, visiting her mother's village, a hyena had entered the house where she was sleeping, fastened on to her leg and tried to drag her away but her screams had roused the villagers and the hyena had run off.



She moved about in the pouring rain, chasing the hens into a shelter behind the hut. A harmless brown snake, flooded out of its hole, was moving across the open ground. Sita took a stick, picked the snake up with it, and dropped it behind a cluster of rocks. She had no quarrel with snakes. They kept down the rats and the frogs. She wondered how the rats had first come to the island - probably in someone's boat or in a sack of grain. 30

She disliked the huge black scorpions who left their waterlogged dwellings and tried to take shelter in the hut. It was so easy to step on one and the sting could be very painful. She had been bitten by a scorpion the previous monsoon and for a day and a night she had known fever and great pain. Sita had never killed living creatures but now, whenever she found a scorpion, she crushed it with a rock! When, finally, she went indoors, she was hungry. She ate some parched gram and warmed up some goat's milk. 35

Grandmother woke once and asked for water and Grandfather held the brass tumbler to her lips. 40

The roof was leaking and a small puddle formed on the floor. Grandfather kept the kerosene lamps alight. They did not need the light but somehow it made them feel safer. 45

It rained all night.

(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) gravely (*line 9*)

(ii) steamy (*line 21*)

(iii) parched (*line 42*) [3]

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your words.

(i) Why was Sita willing to stay alone? [3]

(ii) What had made Sita like the first monsoon shower? [2]

(iii) Why did Sita have a scar on her thigh? [2]

(iv) Which word in the passage tells us that Sita did not need to fear the snake? [1]

(v) Why did she think snakes were useful? [1]



- (vi) What did Sita do with the snake? [1]
- (vii) The passage tells us that Sita never killed living creatures. Why did she crush scorpions with a rock? [1]
- (viii) Why did they keep the lamps alight? [1]
- (c) What kind of a girl was Sita? Describe her in 60 words. [8]
- (d) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). State a reason to justify your choice. [2]

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.

Example: (0) was.

There (0) _____ (be) some confusion in the doorway. A man (1) _____ (get) into the compartment (2) _____ (stammer) an apology. Then the door (3) _____ (bang) and the world was (4) _____ (shut) out again. I (5) _____ (return) to my berth. The guard (6) _____ (blow) his whistle and we (7) _____ (move) off. Once again I (8) _____ (has) a game to play. [4]

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

- (i) The elderly man prepared himself for a life _____ retirement.
- (ii) Do you take his word _____ mine?
- (iii) Rohini is very concerned _____ her father's health.
- (iv) Altaf had many books and papers scattered all _____ the room.
- (v) The Phoenix is a legendary bird that rises _____ its ashes.
- (vi) The police pulled the briefcase from _____ the table.
- (vii) The mob rushed onto the pavement, everyone seemed angry _____ everyone else.
- (viii) The old woman looked _____ the cupboard, searching for the photograph. [4]



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

- (i) The heart attack was mild. Mr. Bose stayed in bed for three weeks.
- (ii) The men went out to see if anyone was missing. The women stayed behind to care for the injured.
- (iii) Her mother warned her not to talk to strangers. She told her not to accept gifts from people she did not know.
- (iv) Everyone was drenched wet by now. The rain had come down harder.

[4]

(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.

- (i) "Have you walked alone, this long distance today?" he asked Sumita.
(Begin: He asked Sumita if.....)
- (ii) The detective interrogated the suspect closely for over three hours.
(Begin: The suspect.....)
- (iii) I suddenly realized that the room was too small for the three of us to share.
(Begin: I suddenly realized that the room was so)
- (iv) In spite of all her efforts, Susan did not succeed.
(Begin: Despite)
- (v) As soon as the bell rang, the children rushed out of class.
(Begin: No sooner)
- (vi) Sachin stood first in class and he also excelled at debate.
(Begin: Not only)
- (vii) She was the only person capable of being House Captain.
(Use: capability)
- (viii) Rohan was the tallest boy in the basketball team.
(Rewrite using: taller)

[8]