



KARNATAKA ICSE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

ICSE STD, X Preparatory Examination 2026 Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE – PAPER 1

Duration: 2 hrs

Maximum Marks: 80

Date: 08.01.2026

Answer 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 for writing the answer.

*Attempt **all five** questions.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

*You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering **Question 1** and 20 minutes in answering **Question 2**.*

Question – 1

[Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.]

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

1. Write an original short story that begins with the words: “He was the funniest boy I had ever met. He would make everyone laugh.....”
2. You visited a remote village untouched by technological progress during your summer vacation. Describe your experience of reaching the destination and living in close proximity to nature. What did you take away from the experience?
3. ‘All stray animals must be moved to shelters’ – Express your views either **for** or **against** this statement.
4. Your class was on the way to a historical site for an educational visit. On the way, the bus broke down and all of you had to walk to the nearest village. Narrate your experience of the journey, the problems you faced, and what you learnt from the experience.

5. Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it. However, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question-2

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

Answer **ANY ONE** of the following:

[10]

- (a) Break time (recess) at your school is only for a duration of fifteen minutes. Write a letter to your Principal requesting an extension in the break-time from fifteen minutes to half an hour.
- (b) You are Ronith/Rajanya, a resident of Bangalore. Write a letter to the Editor of an English newspaper expressing your concern about the rising tendency of using the Instagram and all other social media among the teenagers and its negative impact on their life.

Question-3

- (i) You are the Student Editor of the monthly magazine which publishes the creativity of the students. Write a notice for your school notice board, inviting articles, poems, stories etc for the forthcoming edition of the magazine. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school, requesting him/her to send the poems/ stories etc of those school students for the forthcoming edition of the magazine of your school. [5]

Question-4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. [20]

My husband Pele and I were staying in a holiday house overlooking the beautiful, lush rainforests of Indonesia. The glass walls framed a fine view across the Bagon Valley to what had been the summer palace of President Suharto.

The first morning we *strolled* hand in hand up a winding pathway, heading to the main building for breakfast. But once we arrived at the dining room, I realized we'd forgotten our money, so I volunteered to run back to the house. Making my way down the path, I turned the last corner only to find a giant bird, similar to an emu, standing outside our front door.

"Hey baby, what are you doing?" I cooed, moving slowly so as not to frighten it. Having a deep, abiding *fascination* with all creatures great and small, I wanted a closer look. This was my first mistake.

As I came within a few metres, he took a big breath and let out a nasty hiss, stopping me in my tracks.

"That's not very friendly", I said, clueless. He hissed again and I promptly made the second mistake of turning and running, instead of backing away slowly. As I rounded the corner I heard his razor-sharp claws scabbling on the cobblestones.

"Oh!" His steps sounded like a drum as they hit the ground, quickly coming too close for comfort. I suddenly changed direction and headed into the trees. Dodged in and out of the foliage, I hoped my tactic would fool him. A crash behind me indicated no such luck. Jumping over a small bush, I found myself out in the open and not far from the dining room. Picking up speed, I bolted over the plants and rockeries surrounding the perimeter and dashed through the gate. When I turned to close it, the bird was nowhere to be seen. I didn't realize it and at the time, but I had just come face to face with a cassowary, a bird also found in Australia's north Queensland rainforests. Cassowaries weigh 55 kilos or more, stand about 180 centimeters tall and have saber-like toenails that can open a human from chin to groin like a zipper and kill humans.

"What's wrong?" Pele asked as I stumbled back into the dining room.

"A big bird chased me all the way from the house," I replied.

"What?" he asked incredulously. "You're scared of a bird?"

"It's as big as me and very mean," I said in a rather sulky voice.

"Oh, all right," he laughed, "I'll come with you."

Much to Pele's amusement, I stayed behind him on the path and held onto the back of his shirt as we approached the corner of the house.

"See! There it is. Look at the size of the thing!"

Pele chuckled at the hysteria in my voice. "It's all right," he soothed.

Calmly and confidently he walked toward the cassowary.

"Shoo! Go on, get out," he said.

He made actions with his arms as if it were a pigeon on a window ledge. The response of the cassowary was the same as before: a big hiss and a step forward.

“Hmm,” said Pele and stopped, not so sure of himself. He tried again, “Go on”. The cassowary then ran a few paces at us, hissing aggressively, so we quickly retreated around a corner of the house. Pele picked up a rock the size of his hand and threw it hard, hitting the bird squarely in the chest. It didn’t budge.

“What are we going to do?” I pleaded. This time, Pele picked up a cane chair.

“Stay behind and I’ll keep him back. When we get to the door, open it.”

Again I held on to the back of his shirt and we started towards the door. This greatly displeased the already annoyed cassowary. Charging at us he ripped at the chair with those lethal claws. Pele stopped to steady the chair and possibly his resolve.

Pele threw the chair at the bird and slammed the door shut.

Ducking the flying cane, the bird ran straight at the glass wall, only to bounce off. But it didn’t slow down at all. Pecking and scratching at the glass, it continued the assault with a sickening ferocity.

It was another 15 minutes before the bird weakened and slowed its attack. Thirty minutes later, we quietly opened the door and crept back to the main building.

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
1. **strolled** (line 3)
- (a) ran away (c) wandered
(b) walked leisurely (d) laughed
2. **fascination** (line 8)
- (a) madness (c) boredom
(b) suspicion (d) attraction
- (ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of ‘**meekly**’? [1]
- (a) calmly (c) aggressively
(b) squarely (d) confidently
- (iii) **Answer the questions in brief.**
- (a) What was Pele’s wife’s first mistake when she saw the bird? [2]
(b) How did the bird react to the lady’s third mistake? [2]
(c) What did she do after this reaction of the bird? [2]
(d) Describe the cassowary. [2]
(e) Use the word ‘framed’ (line 2) in a sentence of your own such that it has a meaning different from that used in the passage. [1]

- (iv) **With close reference to the last paragraph of the extract and in not more than 50 words, describe how the couple got into their room when they were together.** [8]

Question-5

- (i) **Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. Don't copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.** [4]

The power of knowledge is best seen in man's increasing control of the forces of nature. In primitive times man(1)..... (lack) knowledge of nature and(2).....(think) that trees and hills were inhabited by spirits and fairies. He(3).....(believe) in ghosts and goblins. But now man(4).....(fathom) many of the mysteries of nature, and his knowledge(5).....(reflect) in his daily growing power over natural forces. Man no longer(6).....(look) with wonder and fear at a waterfall; he now dams it and(7).....(convert) the waterpower to electric energy that(8).....(irrigate) his fields.

- (ii) **Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.** [4]

- (a) She apologized to you _____ her mistake.
(b) Skill comes _____ regular practice.
(c) The final decision rests _____ the Principal.
(d) This is the man I was referring _____.
(e) The guard sat watching over the camp far -----the night.
(f) We were caught _____ the storm.
(g) She was born _____ rich parents.
(h) The cottage industry is threatened ----- ruin because of the rapid industrialization.

- (iii) **Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option.** [4]

1. Clear the written test. Only then you will be called for an interview.

- (a) When you clear the written test, you will be called for an interview.
(b) After not clearing the written test, you will not be called for an interview.
(c) As soon as you clear your written test, you will not be called for an interview.
(d) Unless you clear the written test, you will not be called for an interview.

2. Here is the lady. Her sister is a chess champion.

- (a) Here is the lady, whom sister is a chess champion.
- (b) Here is the lady, whose sister is a chess champion.
- (c) Here is the lady, who's sister is a chess champion.
- (d) Here the lady's sister who is a chess champion.

3. He did not follow protocol. The report said this.

- (a) The report says he does not follow protocol.
- (b) The report said that he did not follow protocol.
- (c) The report claims his not following protocol.
- (d) The report said that he does not follow protocol.

4. It was a steep hill. We had great difficulty in climbing.

- (a) We had great difficulty in climbing a steep hill.
- (b) Climbing off a steep hill was a great difficulty for us.
- (c) It was greatly difficult to climb a steep hill.
- (d) It was a great difficulty in climbing a steep hill.

(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. [8]

1. You will not get the camera back unless you pay the money. (Begin with: Not until..)

- (a) Not until the money is being paid, will you get the camera back.
- (b) Not until you have paid the money, will you get the camera back.
- (c) Not until the payment of money, you are to get the camera back.
- (d) Not until you pay the money, you shall get the camera back.

2. "Why did I not get a computer before?" thought the manager. (Begin with: The manager wondered ...)

- (a) The manager wondered that why did he not got a computer before.
- (b) The manager wondered he had not got a computer before.
- (c) The manager wondered why he had not got a computer before.
- (d) The manager wondered about the computer he did not get before.

3. He is poor, but he is honest. (Begin with: In spite ...)

- (a) In spite of poverty, he is honest.
- (b) In spite of poor state, he is honest.
- (c) In spite of he is poor, he is honest.
- (d) In spite of being poor, he is honest.

- 4. That roof is not worth repairing. (Begin with: It is pointless ...)**
- (a) It is pointless for that roof to be repaired.
 - (b) It is pointless that roof be prepared.
 - (c) It is pointless if we cannot repair that roof.
 - (d) It is pointless to repair the roof.
- 5. Sumit was driving very fast and could not stop at once. (Use: so that)**
- (a) Sumit is driving so fast that he could not stop at once.
 - (b) Sumit was once driving fast so that he could not stop.
 - (c) Sumit drives so fast that he could not stop at once.
 - (d) Sumit was driving so fast that he could not stop at once.
- 6. My dog is too old to learn new tricks. (Begin with: My dog is so old.....)**
- (a) My dog is so old that it cannot learn new tricks.
 - (b) My dog is so old to learn new tricks.
 - (c) My dog is so old for it to learn new tricks.
 - (d) My dog is so old therefore to learn new tricks.
- 7. He was sorry that he had not said goodbye to her. (Begin: He regretted.....)**
- (a) He regretted not having said goodbye to her.
 - (b) He regretted for not saying her goodbye.
 - (c) He regretted he had not saying goodbye to her.
 - (d) He regretted for himself not having said goodbye to her.
- 8. Somebody has switched on the light. (End:.....somebody)**
- (a) The light is being switched on by somebody.
 - (b) The light has been switched on by somebody.
 - (c) The light will be switched on by somebody.
 - (d) The light shall be switched on by somebody.

 All the Very Best