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Class: X ICSE

Second Preparatory Examination 2014-15

Subject: English I

Marks: 80

Time: 2 hours

Instructions:

- Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
- The time given at the head of the paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
- Attempt all four questions.

Question : 1

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

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

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- a. Write an original short story that begins with the words: "In the background I could hear an awful commotion, men's voices raised and women screaming".
- b. "Working women make better mothers than women who stay at home'. Express your views either for or against this statement.
- c. You were on a school trip and were on your way back to the hotel late one night when your school bus full of children, broke down in a lonely area. Describe what you saw and experienced as you looked around. How was the problem solved?
- d. Teaching someone else how to do something can be a rewarding experience. Think of a skill that you have helped some one to develop. Perhaps you taught someone how to swim, or to bake a cake, or helped someone learn how to study more effectively. Narrate the events that made up the process of teaching the skill, and say what made the experience important and memorable for you.
- 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.



Question 2

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

Select one of the following:

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- a. You will soon have to make a decision about the subjects that you wish to study in classes XI and XII. Write a letter to your Grandfather telling him about the subjects that you plan to take

- up. Be sure to explain the reason for your choice and how you think these subjects would help you in the future.
- b. Many areas near your school have been affected by floods. You are the President of your school social service club. Write a letter to the Mayor of your town / city telling him / her . What you plan to do for the relief of the victims. Suggest ways in which you can combine with other organizations to bring about better distribution of relief items.

Question 3

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

Richard Parker was so named because of a clerical error.

A panther was terrorizing the Khulana district of Bangladesh, just outside the Sundarbans. It had recently carried off a little girl. She was the seventh person killed in two months by the animal. And it was growing bolder. The previous victim was a man who had been attacked in broad daylight in his field. The beast dragged him off into the forest, and his corpse was later found hanging from a tree. The villagers kept a watch nearly that night, hoping to surprise the panther and kill it, but it never appeared.

The Forest Department hired a professional hunter. He set up a small, hidden platform in a tree near a river where two of the attacks had taken place. A goat was tied to a stake on the river's bank. The hunter waited several nights. He assumed the panther would be an old, weak male with worn teeth, incapable of catching anything more difficult than a human. But it was a sleek tiger that stepped into the open one night; a female with a single cub. The goat bleated. Oddly, the cub, who looked to be about three months old, paid little attention to the goat. It raced to the water's edge, where it drank eagerly. Its mother followed it. Of hunger and thirst, thirst is the greater urge. Only once the tiger had quenched her thirst did she turn to the goat to satisfy her hunger.

The hunter had two rifles with him: one with real bullets, the other with immobilizing darts. This animal was not the man-eater, but so close to human habitation she might pose a threat to the villagers, especially as she was with cub. He picked up the gun with the darts. He fired as the tiger was about to attack the goat. The tiger roared up snarled and raced away. But immobilizing darts don't bring on sleep gently – they knock the creature out without warning. A burst of activity on the animal's part makes it act all the faster. The hunter called his assistants on the radio. They found the tiger about two hundred yards from the river. She was still conscious. Her back legs had given way and her balance on her front legs was shaky. When the men got close, she tried to get away but could not manage it. She turned on them, lifting a paw that was meant to kill. It only made her lose her balance. She collapsed and Pondicherry Zoo had two new tigers. The cub was found in a bush close by, meowing with fear.

The hunter, whose name was Richard Parker, picked it up with his bare hands and remembering how it had rushed to drink the water, named it Thirsty. But the shipping clerk at the Howrah train station was evidently a man both confused and diligent. All the papers received with the cub clearly stated that its name was Richard Parker, that the hunter's first name was Thirsty and that his family name was None Given. Richard Parker's name stuck. I don't know if the hunter was ever called Thirsty None Given!

- a. Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. 3

i. Corpse ii. quenched iii. roared

- b. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

- i. Why does the author say that the panther 'was getting bolder'? 2
- ii. Why did the Forest Department hire a professional hunter? 2
- iii. What did the hunter expect to encounter? What did he actually encounter? 2
- iv. What did the tiger do before turning to attack the goat? Why did it do that? 2
- v. Why does the hunter decide to shoot the tiger though he knew it was not the man-eater? 2

