

ICSE Paper 2005

ENGLISH-I

Question 1.

[25]

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

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

- Imagine a situation in which a character from your favourite books comes alive. Write an imaginary account of a day spent with this character.
- 'The commercialization of festivals has eroded their real significance.' Express your views either for or against this statement.
- You have returned to your city after spending five years in a foreign country. The city has changed during your absence. Describe the changes that have affected the life of people in the city. Give your personal views regarding the changes.
- Write an original short story that concludes with the sentence, 'After it was all over, I realised that every cloud has a silver lining.'
- Study the picture and poem 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 or may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.

What Makes a Dad ?

God took the strength of a mountain,
 The Majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these qualities,
 When there was nothing more to add,
 He knew his masterpiece was complete,
 And so, He called it ... Dad.



Answer.

- I was taking a morning walk and just thinking how life had suddenly changed after the boards. The tension of studies was arrested for the moment and I was sauntering down the deserted morning streets of my colony when suddenly from as if nowhere emerge this boy, he wasn't older than me but with sparkling eyes and clothes that made me feel he came from the distant past. O yes I

recognised him. He was Tom Sawyer !! the character from my favourite book entitled "Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain. I could hardly believe my ears as he introduced himself and said he was here for a day and would spend it with me. Tom Sawyer, was full of tricks from morning to noon and kept me in splits of laughter. He even got the better of my elder sister Charu. He saw to it that chewing gum got stuck to her hair and as she cried in bewilderment he told her he could help remove it without damage to the locks if she took on my chores for the day. Charu readily agreed. He used kerosine the gum melted and we had a slave to attend upon us till break fast because after that her tantrums began. Tom was fun. He did not like watching movies on television nor did he like playing games on my computer he suggested we go out. He loved the river and so I took him to the Yamuna which is a few kilometre away. He innovated a fishing rod and caught two lovely fishes. He tied them together and made me carry it home. My father was furious as I walked into the house with fishes dangling around my neck. I was beaten up. I didn't tell you we are vegetarians. Tom patted me on the back and said, "Beatings are the most essential part of life, they make you feel you are a boy", I felt proud of being beaten up that day. Evening began to set in and Tom made me taste the best of life. Ravi, my friend moved around with his wonderful 'Splendor' motorcycle. He tried to show-off. Tom was so disinterested in the vehicle that Ravi offered to let me have a drive to prove it was truly a Splendor. He appreciated my mother's cooking with such admiration that she conjured up the best dishes and delicacies for us. What I liked most is how he made Charu part with her pocket money and took me for a treat at Nirula's. I asked him how he did it. "Simple" said Tom. He had promised her a meeting with John Abraham, a budding star. When I wanted to know if he'd keep his promise all he said was "whose John".

As the sun set Tom bade me farewell when I asked him where he was going, he said nothing just walked out of my house and was no more. I must confess he gave me the best day in my life. Adeu Tom !

- (b) Commercialization has the power to erode anything. Festivals are no exception. My parents speak of festivals during their childhood days with such joy. They have memories attached. Festivals for me are burdensome. The compulsory decoration to out do uncle Sam. His actual name is uncle Sampat but has assumed the title Sam. We find it burdensome to compete with him as he is always showing off and trying to display his wealth during festivals.

Yes, commercialization has ruined the sanctity of festivals. The Diwali gifts are no longer sweets shared to express joy but legitimate ways of bribing officials and important personalities. I must confess, the mega sales and promos during the festive season rob the joy and pressurise us into making purchases of items we don't need with money we don't have. Yes, the mega schemes of loan mela traps many innocent people who gratify their urge to buy and then repent later.

Even the 'dijas' on earthen lamps and colours have assumed a status. No longer are the simple ones in vogue but the fashionable designer counterparts.

Almost everything has undergone a change and the new 'avtars' of commercialization of festivals are like artificial flowers that look more original than the real. No longer are delicacies prepared at home. Family gathering and reunions have lost their meaning. Festivals are a mere "buy it all" business. From clothes to sweets it all available. All you got to do is take your car and do all the purchases. If you can't do that the caterer is ready to help.

Festivals are meant for all to enjoy. To share with the poor and needy but all we do is cater to the greedy. People are too busy to visit each other. The fairs and malls with attractive schemes have robbed us of our visitors, so much so that on festival days homes are empty malls and fairs are full. There is no difference in a festival and a fanciful holiday. How I wish we could once again get back the same old fashion style of celebrating. Where sweets are made at home and children like us enjoy decorating the house. When uncle and aunty come and visit us and we pay them a return visit and food is freshly prepared by men and not mass produced.

When when when... oh when ?

- (c) A little annoyed with the man at the customs who mechanically checked my baggage in his usual rude and abrupt disposition I came out of the airport. I said to myself "Nothing has changed". But I was **wrong**. Everything had changed. The taxi driver spoke in English and then excused himself as he steered the vehicle to the side and answered his cell phone. It was five years and India had changed. My city was different. We could hardly imagine dot phones in every house. Now it seems everyone has a cell phone. The roads were wide and vehicle numerous. The **ubiquitous**. 'Maruti 800' was substituted by big brothers such as Honda and Toyota. Motorcycles outnumbered scooters and cycles and students carried fancy bags to school and dressed like the west. Hair-do's had definitely changed and bleech seemed normal. The road itself spoke of so much change. Traffic lights which indicated the time you have to wait or pass. This was a change. The broad roads and flyovers with green signboards of international standard dazzled me.

My home was a transformed place. I was very excited to meet my parents. However the changes in the house were numerous. The walls were no longer whitewashed but were painted tastefully in off-white and cream. Photo frames had given way to an elegant painting. And the room looked very spacious. The furniture had changed. Clumy coolers were replaced by AC's and the sound of the door bell had also changed. T.V. had many channels along with five local channels. This was just too much to take in.

My friends came over so we went out for a drive and the market had transformed. Malls and fast food restaurants with neon lights and flashy signboards covered the landscape which had small dingy shops and a dirty vegetable market. I treated them to pizza at 'Domino's' and had an Ice-cream at 'Baskin Robbin'. Not only was this a change but the attitude had definitely changed. Five years ago dad would take me to "Kallu" the 'Chatwala' and I would relish a deep fried potato cutlet with lots of spice and aromatic sauce for just five rupees and that was a treat. Today our bill had touched a thousand rupees. Change it was but the cost is heavy.

- (d) **Miss-Taken**

"You are under arrest." I looked back and saw the police officer with hordes of others. I was quickly whisked into a car not jeep and taken like a high profile, criminal. No, I wasn't taken to a police station but to the headquarters where the SSP and other Senior Officers waited, for me. As the car opened newsmen flashed this cameras. However I was taken off into an inner room for interrogation. I had no idea about the happenings and was totally disarrayed. At last someone spoke. How do you know Dawood ? What are your plans ? The questions kept pouring and caused a more puzzling environment. The police

was already issuing statement outside how they had trapped "Raman" Dawood's man in Agra. A mobile company chairman Dinesh Dinai from Delhi praised his staff for their wonderful technology in pinning down a kingpin and helping to erase terrorism from India. All kinds of stories were circulate within hours. The evening newspaper had splashed my photograph on the front page and every channel worth its name had footage of me as breaking news.

My poor self was sweating. I was innocent with no links even with the hoodlums that stalk the colony leave alone Dawood Abraham. I smiled and told myself this is only a show for MTV and tried to look for a hidden camera and smile. The police warned me of dire consequences. One of them saw to it that no one touched me. They thought I was luring them into using third degree and then I would, turn the case onto the police and cry of human rights violations. It was after great difficulty that I understood that Dawood Abraham, the dread criminal was inviting orders to his counterparts in India. These orders were given on a mobile number which was similar to mine. The police had intercepted some messages and played them for me. I said the voice was not mine. They said I was making up and speaking in a different voice. I tried to convince them. They went into the details of the number again and said isn't it. 9897902099. I said no it is 9897102099. Only then did everyone realise their folly. They did checks. The mobile company was contacted. They apologised. I was already a star. The media called me. I was interviewed live by Rajdeep Sardesia of NDTV. O yes ! it was a blunder. The police and chairman of the mobile company hid their faces and issued no statement other than a "blunder". I became a star. The mobile company paid me compensation and I was even offered to advertise for a rival mobile company. No joke for me.

After it was all over, I realised that every cloud has a silver lining.

- (e) Dads are rare stuff. They work, plan strategies and yet remain calm. They play with kids and do all kinds of stuff that little boys just relish. Tom was just seven and amazed at his dad, who knew everything. Tom once came excited from school his teacher told him about Kangaroos who keep their babies in a pouch. His dad knew that and told him more about it. In fact that very day dad introduced him to the encyclopedia on the computer and showed him a whole lot of stuff that the encyclopedia had. The seven year old was awestuck. Dad could do so many things. Ride a bicycle, put his helmet on and go motoring, yes, at the car. He was a natural. He fixed special dinners, was kind to mumma, solved Jane, his eleven year old sisters mathematics problems and what could he not do.

Tom, loved watching movies with his Pa. That's what he called his dad. "Karate Kid" was awesome. Pa knew everything in the movie. Tom never understood much but enjoyed the action. Life seemed so wonderful with dad. He purchased chocolates and was always happy when he came home. Even when he visited the Teacher in school, who was always full of complains, Pa just said son you need to try harder. I will dad. Dad was big and strong, perfect urbanite. Tom never saw dad worried or give a second thought to his demands until the other day. Tom said, "Pa you know how to fish. Pa looked at Tom and said, 'No'. "Can we go fishing" said Tom. "Why" questioned Pa.

"Cause the Karate Kid went fishing" was the boy's reply.

A week later father and son were in their skyblue "Qualis" heading towards "Seetha" lake on the outskirts of the city. Pa had made all preparations. Downloaded all material available off the net and familiarized himself with

fishing techniques and tips. Pa was really serious about fishing that he even wore a suit. He wore suits only for business meetings. Dad tried his best even prayed yet, they caught no fish. Dad tried to sing, told Tom some stories; the second hour passed. Dad tried to tell Tom all reasons for fish not biting when suddenly the float moved and dad pulled out a large fish. Dad was excited more than Tom. He let Tom hold the fish in his hand. It felt like Heaven to Tom. Much more joy than the "Karate Kid". Travelling back home it was fun. Dad had loosened up. He took off his coat, loosened his tie, tossed his hair, wore his Gucci sunglasses, smiled to himself and whistled on his way home. Where was the fish? Back in the water. Dad did not need it, neither did Tom.

Tom said, "Pa, I'm sure even the fish is not as happy as you."

Question 2.

[10]

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

Select ONE of the following :

- (a) *Write a letter to the Director of the Archaeological Survey of India complaining about the damage caused to a historical monument in your city due to negligence. Suggest steps that the civic authorities should take to preserve the monument.*
- (b) *Your pen-friend from Japan plans to visit your school and attend classes and activities for the duration of a month. Write a letter briefing him/her on your school routine. Give any other information that you think your friend may need.*

Answer.

- (a) 9, Raghu Vir Kunj
Civil Courts Campus,
Agra

1st March, 2005

The Director,
Archaeological Survey of India,
22-Mall Road,
Agra

Sir,

I would like to draw your attention towards the "Red Fort" at Agra which is not only a historical monument but a heritage site. However the monuments suffers due to neglect. The walls are full of graffitti and the place is littered with garbage. Most students and children walk into the vast monument to play "hide and seek". They destroy the beauty of the building even chipping off the plaster at places.

I hope you will take measures to protect the monument. If only tickets are introduced to check non-serious visitor and guards to fine those who try to deface the monument. We would do much better in preserving the building. A clean surrounding is definitely welcome.

I am sure my suggestions will be considered and the Red Fort will be preserved for future generations to relish its beauty.

Your faithfully

- (Daphne Clarence)
- (b) 9, Raghu Vir Kunj
Civil Courts Campus,
Agra

- (vi) The two points of difference between the actual story and Defoe's version are :
- (a) Defoe's version has many twist and turns. The actual story was not very eventful and Selkirk spent his time hunting.
- (b) Defoe's version is an account of twenty-eight years. Selkirk did not live on the Island for more than five years from 1704 to Feb. 1709.
- (c)
- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|---------|-------------|----------|
| Alexander | had | few | necessities | on |
| the | deserted | Island | and | so |
| he | hunted | goats | for | food |
| and | skin | to | cover | his |
| body. | Fish | and | tortoise | also |
| formed | a | part | of | his |
| diet. | Once | a | Spanish | ship |
| anchored | near | the | Island | which |
| frightened | him | as | the | Spanish |
| were | the | enemies | of | England. |
| In | 1709 | two | English | Ships |
| anchored. | He | sailed | home | in |
| one | of | them. | | |
- (d) The title is "Selkirk's Adventure". The entire summary is about Selkirk's experience on the lonely Island.

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.* [4]

Example : (0) returned.

After Christopher Columbus (0)(return) from his famous voyage across the Atlantic, the King of Spain (1) (with) to celebrate the great event and do honour to the man who (2) (make) himself a national hero. He (3) (do) so by holding a banquet in honour of the explorer. To this banquet he (4) (invite) many of the nobles of the King's Court. Some of them (5) (be) jealous of the success Columbus (6) (achieve). One of them sat next to Columbus. He turned towards Columbus and said. "Of course you (7)(be) a brave man but it doesn't take much intelligence to do what you have done. After all, anyone can take a ship and sail on and on till he (8) (reach) land."

- (b) *Fill in the blanks with appropriate words :* [4]
- (i) The safari parks of South Africa abound wild animals.
- (ii) The young man excels both music and dance.
- (iii) She is a diligent student, worthy praise.
- (iv) I saw his plan and realized that he was going to cheat us.
- (v) I was the impression that the meeting had been cancelled.
- (vi) Always be true yourself.
- (vii) The villagers lodged a complaint the corrupt officials.
- (viii) I can rely my sister for help.
- (c) *Explain the difference in meaning between the pairs of sentences given below :* [4]
- (i) (1) She must have repainted the car.
(2) She must have the car repainted.

- (ii) (1) "The girl," said the boy, "was ugly."
 (2) The girl said the boy was ugly.
- (d) Rewrite 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. [8]
- (i) Jasdeep has probably forgotten his mother's birthday.
 (Begin : In)
- (ii) Mr. Sharma advised the children not to go out in the cold.
 (End with : ".....", said Mr. Sharma)
- (iii) For more information please contact the secretary of the club.
 (Begin : Should)
- (iv) He could not take part in the singing competition as he had a sore throat.
 (Use : prevented)
- (v) Ritika returned to school a week ago.
 (Begin : It has been)
- (vi) She was beautiful and humble.
 (Begin : Not only)
- (vii) Both the players are not adequately prepared for the tournament.
 (Begin : Neither)
- (viii) A fragrant flower is the loveliest creation of nature.
 (Begin : No other)

Answer.

- (a) 1. wished 2. had made 3. did 4. invited
 5. were 6. had achieved 7. are 8. reaches
- (b) (i) with (ii) in (iii) of (iv) through
 (v) of (vi) to (vii) against (viii) on.
- (c) (i) 1. There is no certainty of her repainting the car.
 2. She should get the car repaired.
 (ii) 1. The boy is speaking about a girl who he thinks is ugly.
 2. This sentence is just the opposite of the former. Here the boy is ugly in the opinion of the girl.
- (d) (i) In all probability Jasdeep has forgotten his mother's birthday.
 (ii) "Children do not go out in the cold", said Mr. Sharma.
 (iii) Should you need more information, contact the Secretary of the club.
 (iv) He was prevented from taking part in the singing competition due to his sore throat.
 (v) It has been a week since Ritika returned to school.
 (vi) Not only was she beautiful but also humble.
 (vii) Neither of the players are adequately prepared for the tournament.
 (viii) No other creation of nature is as lovely as a fragrant flower.