

ICSE Paper 2006

ENGLISH-I

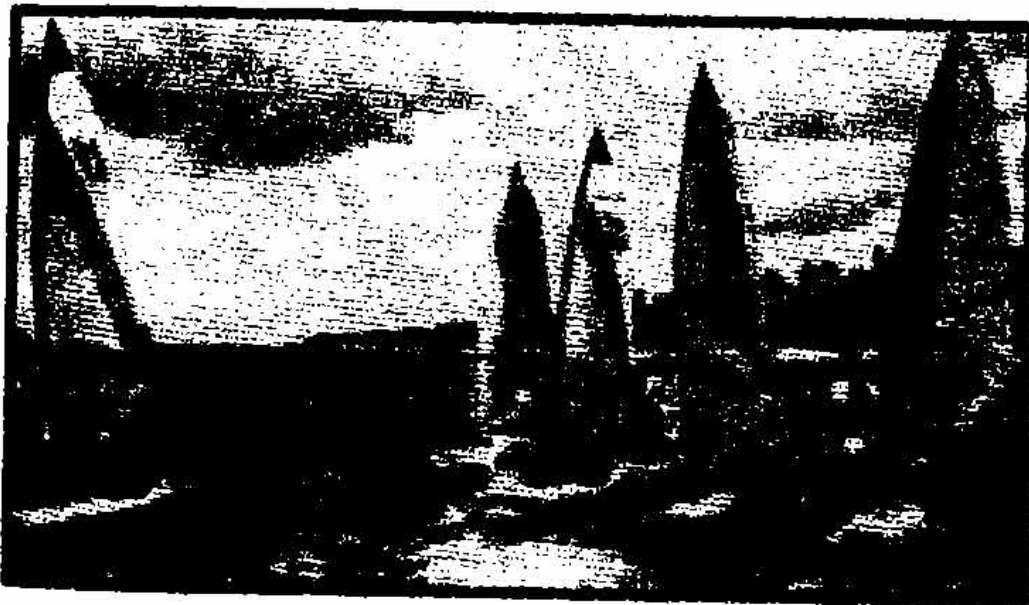
Question 1.

[25]

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

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

- (a) You are a spectator at a cricket match. Trouble erupts suddenly in the stadium and you witness a riot among the crowd. Give a vivid description of the scene.
- (b) India has always believed in the value of the family. Discuss the changes both good and bad, that have resulted from the break-up of the traditional Indian joint family.
- (c) The computer will soon replace the Book. Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (d) Write a short story which illustrates the truth of the statement, Rumour is a great traveller.
- (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 or may take suggestions from it, however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Answer.

- (a) A match produces strange results. And sports has always produced excitement because of its uncertain outcome however the match that I witnessed did have an unusual ending because it did not end in a draw nor was it a neither win nor loss. What exactly happened is not really unusual but definitely something no one wants to witness. I definitely do not want to witness such an incident.

It so happened that the Eklavya stadium in Agra, my home town, was packed to capacity. Not surprising as spectators had come from near and far to watch the India-Pakistan under nineteen cricket match. The Indian team won to toss and opted to bat scoring a hundred and sixty-two runs in fifty overs. The Pakistan team scored ninety runs in just ten overs. Indian supporters began to panic. The Pakistani supporters began to shout anti Indian slogans. Someone threw a clock bottle and a supporter was badly wounded. It took minutes for the entire stadium to transform into a battle ground.

The scene was so horrendous that people who did not want to indulge in this fight were pushed to take sides. Most of the spectators were young and energetic and therefore were catalyzed to participate in the ensuing battle. The player tried to appeal to the crowds to subside this maddening battle but it seems the supporters were ready for a game of their own. It was absolutely chaotic to see such senseless fighting among supporters. I never knew a simple game of twenty two players could cause such emotional outburst. Objects were being hurled at one another, shoes, sticks, bottles and stones many were injured. Spectators outside the stadium made there way in and guns began to be fired it was pandemonium. People were shouting and screaming. The player of course were taken to a secure place. Ravi Mohanti of the Indian side was injured by a coke can that someone threw at him. This created more panic.

The police had to call for other reinforcements to quell the anger of the crowd. Investigations would reveal nothing because this was a case of emotional outburst due to mob fury. The police did arrive and tried to quell down the anger of the mob by their brutalities. The protester began attacking the police. It took almost one hour and much reinforcement by the police and paramilitary forces to control the crowd.

There were many injured and had to be rushed to the hospital. A few were arrested. The D.M. and SSP arrived at the scene and described the incident as shameful. I am sure that no one would like to see such a chaotic match. However the experience is definitely an important one and will always remain in my memory.

- (b) Rohit is now happy. His parents left their ancestral home where he lived with his noisy cousins. His parents have shifted to a cosy flat and his mother goes out to work. Now every Saturday they go out and spend much time together. This is just one example where the joint family system is giving way to the unclear family.

The nuclear family has brought in many changes. Children have turned independent and have learnt to flaunt their riches. In joint families all entertainment is within the family unit. Children are not pampered and have to obey not only parents but elder cousins unless and aunts. Freedom is restricted and decisions are usually taken from the grand parents. Of course the house are quite noisy and there is always the element of jealousy and criticism that hampers growth rather than helps the child to explore individual talent.

Every family has its own traditions which may be good or bad. However adherence to such in modern times could be painful. Women should not work outside the house. This may not seem quite relevant today. In a nuclear family the adjust must isn't much because there are only three or four members but in a joint family the adjustment could break ones back with everyone getting on to each others nerves.

Now festivals are also celebrated with things purchased rather than homemade sweets. Life has become fast paced with people working hard because they know they have to fulfil their desires by their own labour and not depend on others. Family relationships have even grown stranger uncles and aunts pay visit encourage the children of the house and most of all support each other better. No longer do members of the family take each other for granted. The family is no longer a place for the upbringing of children and quiet evenings or family dinners where all cook together and then enjoy a meal till late in the evening. In earlier times it was difficult for a single person to manage even a small party. Apart from the crockery people had to cook and would be just exhausted at the end of the party. Today things have changed' single phone call can bring the best caterer at ones doorstep and hurray the party is arranged. All social meetings are now moving out of the homes and gatherings are now in banquet halls or hotels and restaurants.

Another change that has occurred in recent times is the development of communication systems in the homes. The way people communicate has become quicker and easier. Whenever in need there is no need to wake up ones neighbours all we need to do is call an expert. This era of the nuclear family is thus possible as facilities are at ones door step and one does not really need others. A good pay packet is sufficient.

A very significant change of the nuclear family is a desire to be independent so that no one interferes with them. A change that has come is that the families now boast of things and material possessions whereas earlier it was members of the family that matter. The nuclear family is dangerous it only uses people and does not know how to maintain lasting friendship and relationship so that people become more important than things.

- (c) Computer will never replace books. However useful the computer be, it is absurd to imagine it replacing books. Computer any day are far more expensive than books and do not work on fresh air but power through batteries and mains. One cannot lie in bed and read them leisurely and of course if milk or syrup spills on them the damage could be much more.

Computers need a special environment to function in. They cannot be ill treated and no matter how much we may debate computers as not completely reliable. Viruses attacks and software suddenly developing problems and then it is so easy for someone to wreck all your work in seconds. On paper you need a shredder to do the job at a quick space. Even if you burn a book the residue will remain but the computer only needs a delete button to erase the entire matter. Computers are quick. Quick to build and equally quick to destroy. This is why every sensible person uses computers but will not do away with the tactile, useful, cheap, and practical paper. There is something about paper that gives us a lasting more permanent, authentic look. You cannot sign an oath or submit an electronic affidavit. House papers cannot be considered valid if there is no paper.

Computer have viruses and are not completely dependable but a book in a shelf is very dependable. It does not make you strain your eyes as computers. If I would write a novel it would be in paper. An e-novel can be tampered and I would never know the original unless I have the printed one with me. A book somehow has a belongingness. We can make our notes as well as turn to specific pages without really having much problems. One can sleep with a book on our bedside and wake up in the morning to read it.

A book is culturally suited. Can you imagine the outrage that Sikhs may have to do away with the Guru Granth Sahib and replace it with a laptop or desktop. The Sikhs will never bow to this electronic device. Just imagine if the Bible, Gita, and Kuran were only available in electronics script. People would be outraged and no one would really relish the spiritual significance of a book.

Students are the most creative while playing pranks. Instead of studying they would simply play the fool. Watch movies and play video games. Very often to make truant kids study parents make them write matter several times. On the computer there is no such option. Students will simply copy-paste and the matter is complete. The pride of a Library and collecting first edition as well as autographed books of the author will have no relevance. A book reveals the nature of a person but with a computer no one knows who is an avid reader and who is not.

The printed book can be easily read and stored. Students can write their notes and refer to them. They can easily be destroyed and can be upgraded. The computer troubles its users while a book is perfect relaxation. The joy of placing your hands on a book and reading through its pages is ecstatic.

Books can never be replaced. No one is going to put computers into the hands of kindergarten students and then the rural areas can just about afford books imagine the cost of dishing out computers to every aspirant of knowledge so lets forget about such an idea and live realistically. Books may have their limitation but they can never be superseded by computers. No one wants to loose the joy of reading a book. And at the end pronouncing to oneself that, "It is finished".

- (d) Rakesh Ahuja had just arrived from Denmark. He was working in a pharmaceutical company and went to Denmark on a sales promotion campaign. This was his first visit abroad and the first man to go abroad in the locality so the neighbours converged to here tales of this "phoren" land and taste a chocolate. The evening was delightful as all wanted to here tales of Denmark and how their little town boy was doing in a developed country. Among the various subjects that Rakesh spoke about he told them about bird flu. And how people in Denmark are grappling with the problem. He told them that it occurred like a simple flu and would then kill a person. It was a deadly disease in which the Government of Denmark has taken many precautions including the culling of many birds. The disease is caused by eating chicken.

That evening Rakesh had a mild headache and went to meet his family doctor. Mr. Harish met him there and had a casual conversation. Later that evening when the neighbours go together in the park for their usual chat. They spoke about bird flue and Harish mentioned he met Rakesh at the doctor. The people somehow began to joke about Rakesh having bird flue and how his house should be sealed off. The woman of the colony over heard this conversation and the rumour was born. Yes, just then a rumour on bird flu was born and before morning people were talking about it. Cleaning their kitchens of any poultry products. The local chicken seller suddenly experienced a major drop in sales and began to panic. He tried to use a management technique to encourage customer to his shop and therefore he put up a board announcing 25% discount. The announcement further strengthened the rumour and not only were his chickens not sold. People began to speak about bird flu and how chicken sellers in the city are trying to get rid of their stock. The entire city was talking about

bird flu. People created all kinds of rumours about bird flu and believed that the city was suffering from the malady.

The next day the Chief Medical Officer published a statement in the newspaper that Bird Flu was not a threat. He said that there have been no reports of bird flu and people should consume chicken without any fear. This caption was in the headlines of the newspapers and the city cables also ran stories on it. The more the Government said, there was no fear of bird flu the more the people feared it. Poor neighbourhoods those who kept birds were forced to do away with them. They killed the birds and threw them. The matter was reported that birds were found dead. Due to the change in climate children began to suffer from colds and panic struck. No one knew when the rumour began but it spread and every statement against it only affirmed it to the believers of rumours.

Doctors suddenly began to treat patients asking them to avoid eating meat. The people of course began to think the Doctors made stay away from chicken. All kinds of stories were invented and channels began to run entire interviews on people who have rejected chicken. As well as the good and the bad of eating meat. No one really knew how to curtail the menace. Restaurants, hotels, small shops were all incurring heavy losses. They all began to protest. That's when the police came in and began to investigate all rumours. No one was caught. No one knew how the rumours started. But it took three months to quell down. This is the power of a rumour. We should be very careful before we speak about something negative.

(e) **Wind Surfing**

The blue water were irresistible. Movin Sharma could hardly believe that back home in India in the waters of Goa wind-surfing and parasailing all in Switzerland. Yes, Movin Sharma was a second generation emigrant to Switzerland. He had loved the land that gave him power. Enough money to make the mare talk at least in India.

Adventure sports was in Movin's blood. His grand father used to flight with bulls in a village near Noida. He so worked as a gardener and so made his way to Switzerland in the good old days when the saab's took their servants along. Things have changed and Movin hardly associates himself to the humble beginning. On his crop to India Movin was given the luxury of paradise and all the attention which actually got on to his nerves at times but the attention did make him glow at times.

Movin Sharma began Lessons on wind surfing and picked it up within a day. Just a week later he was sailing like a professional orchestrating delicate moves and negotiating breathtaking turns. No one believed that a Swiss born could come to India and learn the sport in a couple of days and then do so well.

Movin was obsessed by his new sport. He purchased his yacht which was superior than the hired ones and then he began to orchestrate the most difficult moves. He loved the sea at night the serenity with the reflection the stars and moon. He knew it was wrong but he did the unspeakable. Yes, Movin ventured out into the sea, rode the waves and relished the breeze that he used to advantage as he moved deeper into the sea away from the shore.

Movin had never enjoyed the sea in such a manner. He wanted to be just on his own. Playing with the waves that made his yacht go up and down just like while he was on a camel ride in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Even then he had gone out all alone on a camel enjoying the evening but this was different. The sheer thrill of life without any support amused him. He knew there was no danger in the

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sea yet the darkness and rising waves somehow frightened him. He enjoyed this fear just like a boy does when he goes up and down on a giant wheel or on a roller coaster.

Just when Movin was enjoying himself the waves began to rise. He turned back. Tried to shout for help as he found himself helpless but he was too far to be heard.

The sunlight exposed a overturned yacht like a speck far into the sea. The alarm was raised. Movin was missing. A search party was set. After seven long hours his body was found. The people turned out to see him. Everyone admired this young, energetic, lively and happily man whose love for adventure had taken him away.

Question 2.**[10]**

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

Select ONE of the following :

- (a) *Recently you went to a restaurant for dinner and there you saw your favourite sports star. You had an opportunity of spending some moments with him or her. In a letter to your friend give a brief account of your memorable meeting with the sports star.*
- (b) *Your cousin is missing from home. Write a letter to the Superintendent of Police of your locality, requesting him to trace your cousin. Give all relevant details that may help the police department.*

Answer.

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

2nd March, 2006

Dear Kavita,

You will never believe what I'm about to tell you. It's true. I met Sania Mirza !! Yesterday was my father's birthday so we went to Pizza Hut and then I realized we were on a table next to Sania Mirza. I told her how much I admired her but she was simple and told me it was hard work and labour that gave her success. She gave me her autographed picture. I did click a few photographs with her. I will send them to you as soon as they are developed.

Convey my regards to uncle and aunt and tell them about my experience.

Yours loving friend,

Daphne

- (b) 21, Lajpat Kunj,
M.G. Road,
Agra

3rd March, 2006

The Superintendent of Police
Hari Parvat Thana
Agra

Sir,

This is to request for your help in tracing my missing cousin Hari Sadu.

Hari went for coaching classes at 4 p.m. yesterday and has not returned. He is fifteen years old, five feet six inches tall. He is well built and is fair with blue eyes. He was wearing jeans and a red T-shirt and lives in the same residence as we are a joint family.

I request that you use your good office to help. We all are very worried and his mother is anxious.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

(Mukesh Sadu)

Question. 3.

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

There came to our town some years ago a showman who owned an institution called the Gaiety Land. Overnight, our Gymkhana Grounds became *resplendent* with banners and streamers and coloured lamps. From all over the district, crowds poured into the show. Within a week of opening, in gate money, they collected five hundred rupees a day. Gaiety Land provided us with all sorts of fun and gambling and side-shows. For a couple of annas, in each booth, we could watch anything from performing parrots to crack motor cyclists. In addition to this, there were lotteries and shooting galleries, where, for an anna, you always stood a chance of winning a hundred rupees.

There was a particular corner of the show which was in great favour. Here, for a ticket costing eight annas, you could be lucky enough to acquire a variety of articles—pin cushions, sewing machines or even a road engine. One evening, they drew a ticket, number 1005, and I happened to own the other half of the ticket. Glancing down the list of articles, they declared that I had become the owner of a road engine !

I looked *stunned*. people gathered around and gazed at me as if I were some sort of a curious animal. Some people muttered and giggled, "Fancy anyone becoming the owner of a road engine !"

It was not the sort of prize one could carry home at short notice. I asked the showman if he could help me to transport it. He merely pointed at a notice which decreed that all the winners should remove their prizes immediately after the draw and by their own effort. However, they had to make an exception in my case. They agreed to keep the engine at the Gymkhana Grounds till the end of the season, and then, I would have to make my own arrangements to take it out.

When I asked the showman if he could find me a driver, he just smiled and said, "The fellow who brought it here had to be paid a hundred rupees for the job and five rupees a day. I sent him away and made up my mind that if no one was going to draw it, I would just leave it to its fate."

"Can't I sell it to some municipality?" I asked innocently. He burst into a laugh. "As a showman I have enough trouble with municipal people. I would rather keep out of the way."

My friends and relatives poured in, to congratulate me on my latest *acquisition*. No one knew precisely how much a road engine would fetch, all

the same they felt that there was a lot of money in it. "Even if you sell it as scrap iron, you can make a few thousands," some of my friends declared. Everyday I made a trip to the Gymkhana Grounds to have a look at my engine. I grew very fond of it. I loved its shining brass parts. I stood near it and patted it affectionately, hovered about it, and returned home everyday only at the close of the show. I thought all my troubles were coming to an end. How ignorant I was! How little did I guess that my troubles had just begun!

- (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. [3]
- resplendent (line 2)
 - stunned (line 16)
 - acquisition (line 34)
- (b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words
- Which two sentences in the first paragraph show that Gaiety Land was popular? [2]
 - Give three reasons for the popularity of Gaiety Land. [3]
 - What is meant by 'it was not the sort of prize one could carry home at short notice?' [2]
 - What was the showman's response to the narrator asking for help to transport the road engine? [3]
 - Why was the showman ready to leave the road engine to its fate? [2]
- (c) In not more than 60 words, describe the reactions of the public, friends and relatives towards the narrator on his winning the road engine. How did he treat his proud possession? [8]
- (d) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). State a reason to justify your choice. [2]

Answer.

- (a) (i) resplended—wonderful, beautiful
 (ii) stunned—shocked
 (iii) acquisition—to own, purchase, receive, acquire.
- (b) (i) The two sentences in the first paragraph that show Gaiety Land was popular are :
- From all over the district, crowds poured into the show.
 - Within a week of opening, in gate money, they collected five hundred rupees a day.
- (ii) The three reasons for Gaiety Land's popularity are :
- The grounds were wonderfully decorated with banners, streamers and coloured lamps.
 - For a few annas one could enjoy performing tricks etc.
 - For an anna, a person stood a chance to win a hundred rupees.
- (iii) The road engine was not the kind of prize that could be taken home immediately. Much preparation is involved to transport it.
- (iv) The showman only pointed to the notice which said that prizes were to be immediately removed by the winners own efforts.
- (v) Transporting the road engine was too expensive and therefore if no one won it the showman was ready to just leave it and go.
- (c) The Public congratulated and admired the
 narrator some mocked at his
 winning a road engine friend and

relatives	said	he	would	fetch
thousand	in	scrap	iron	if
sold	The	narrator	would	admire
his	engine	and	began	to
love	each	part	of	it
He	patted	the	engine	and
only	returned	home	after	the
show	closed.	He	thought	all
his	troubles	were	then	over.

- (d) 'True lies' is the title of the summary. Although winning the road engine was a truth the joy of doing so was a lie as it would cause more problems than delight.

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) giving.

Mid-afternoon while (0) (give) my report to Mrs. Biggs, I (1) (hear) a loud thumping (2) (come) from the direction of her store room.

"What (3) (be) all that noise downstairs?" I asked.

"Probably a rat. I don't hear anything" she replied.

I ran downstairs and (4) (open) the store room door. There was Mr. Biggs (5) (look) very dusty and very disgruntled; he wanted to know why Mrs. Biggs (6) (shut) him up for hours. He had gone into the store room in search of a walking stick and Mrs. Biggs, (7) (see) the door open, had promptly (8) (bolt) it.

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words : [4]

- (i) He refused to put with their interference in his affairs.
- (ii) She has been going the script for days.
- (iii) It is our duty to protest injustice.
- (iv) He soon became accustomed the harsh weather.
- (v) Dilip went out his way to help the poor.
- (vi) He was able to put his ideas so cleverly that he impressed everyone.
- (vii) He persists teasing the other children in the class.
- (viii) I have been waiting for you four o'clock.

- (c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. [4]

- (i) Sahil composed a wonderful song. It became a hit.
- (ii) Rani reached the spot. We were to meet there.
- (iii) Dick met me. I gave him the document.
- (iv) Shenaz was very upset. I wanted to help her out.

- (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. [8]

- (i) As soon as the Chief Guest arrived, the band started playing.
(Begin : No sooner)
- (ii) He went to the library and to the bank.
(Begin : Not only)

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- (iii) Though he is very poor, he helps others in need.
(Begin : Inspite
- (iv) He does not intend to leave the company.
(Use : intention)
- (v) "Do you want some more ice-cream or a slice of cake?" asked my aunt.
(Begin : My aunt asked
- (vi) They are painting to mural on the front wall.
(Begin : A mural.....)
- (vii) Tansen was the best singer in Akbar's court.
(Use : Better
- (viii) You remembered to buy a loaf of bread, didn't you ?
(Begin : You didn't

Answer.

- (a) (1) heard (2) coming (3) is (4) opened
(5) looking (6) had shut (7) seeing (8) bolted
- (b) (i) up (ii) through (iii) against (iv) to
(v) on (vi) up (vii) on (viii) since.
- (c) (i) Sahil composed a wonderful hit song.

Or

Sahil composed a wonderful song which became a hit.

- (ii) Rani reached the spot where we were supposed to meet.
(iii) I gave the document to Dick.

Or

I gave the document to Dick when he met me.

- (iv) Shenaz was very upset therefore I wanted to help her out.

Or

I wanted to help Shenaz because she was very upset.

Or

As Shenaz looked upset, I wanted to help her out.

- (d) (i) No sooner did the Chief Guest arrive than the band started playing.

Or

No sooner had the Chief Guest arrived than the band started playing.

- (ii) Not only did he go to the library but also to the bank.
(iii) Inspite of his being very poor he helps others in need.

Or

Inspite of being very poor he helps others in need.

- (iv) He does not carry the intention of leaving the company.

Or

His intention is not to leave the company.

- (v) My aunt asked me if/whether I wanted some more ice-cream or a slice of cake.
(vi) A mural is being painted on the front wall by them.
(vii) Tansen was better than any other singer in Akbar's court.

Or

Tansen was better than many other singers in Akbar's court.

- (viii) You didn't forget to buy a loaf of bread, didn't you ?