

# THE SECOND COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION 2008

Class XII (ISC)  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper I

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**Time: Two hours and a half**

**Maximum marks: 100**

**Instructions:**

- *Attempt all four questions.*
  - *Answers to this paper must be written on the answer script provided separately.*
  - *You are **NOT** 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 answers.***
  - *All subsections of each question must be answered in the correct order.*
  - *Please do **not** write anything on your question paper except your name and roll number.*
  - *The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].*
  - *You are advised to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1, 30 minutes on Question 2, 25 minutes on Question 3 and 45 minutes on Question 4.*
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**Question 1**

**(Do not spend more than 50 minutes on this question.)**

Write a **composition** (in approximately 450 – 500 words) on **any one** of the following subjects:

[30]

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

- (a) An international travel agency has announced their Summer Holiday competition for senior students. All you have to do is describe the best or the worst holiday you have ever had. Write your description for the competition.
- (b) Contemporary Cinema is highly educative. Express your views **for** or **against** the proposition.
- (c) Science.
- (d) Write about a member of your family who has had a lasting influence on you. Describe that person and explain how his or her actions and example have changed your life.
- (e) Genius begins great work; labour alone finishes it. Discuss.

- (f) The local year-end edition of a magazine invites readers to send in short stories. The titles they have chosen are:
- (i) A Strange Encounter
  - (ii) Strange Are The Ways Of The World.

**Question 2**

Write a report on a fire that broke out in a cinema hall, where you were watching a film. Base your account on the following points in not more than **200 words**. [20]

First Day, first show — cinema hall in a crowded locality — usher goes away locking the balcony door — short circuit in generator — building on fire, smoke rising — rush to go out — door locked — rescue work, three Army officers with presence of mind — broke the door — fire fighters called — no loss of life — few injured in the stampede — Government Enquiry — award to soldiers.

(You may include other relevant details.)

**Question 3**

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

- (a) In each of the following items, sentence **A** is complete, while sentence **B** is not. Complete sentence **B**, making it as similar in meaning as possible to sentence **A**. Write down sentence **B** in each case. [5]

**Example:** (O) (A) Professional education is beyond the means of common man.  
(B) Common man .....

**Answer:** (O) (B) Common man cannot afford professional education.

- (1) (A) He had finished painting so he asked to be paid.  
(B) After .....
- (2) (A) Joyce feels that I am a very good cook. ...  
(B) The feeling .....
- (3) (A) Arun said, "Come back right now."  
(B) I was .....

(4) (A) No sooner did Seema hear the whistle than she jumped out of bed.

(B) Hardly .....

(5) (A) Nothing worthwhile can be achieved without toil.

(B) Can .....

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence)

[5]

(1) They had to economise \_\_\_\_\_ the college expenses.

(2) I hate being excluded \_\_\_\_\_ family discussions.

(3) His face was familiar \_\_\_\_\_ me.

(4) She was fishing \_\_\_\_\_ compliments.

(5) Our decision went \_\_\_\_\_ the management policy.

(6) The good result bodes well \_\_\_\_\_ the future.

(7) Hearing the news, she burst \_\_\_\_\_ tears.

(8) I am paid \_\_\_\_\_ cheque.

(9) Workers should have control \_\_\_\_\_ production.

(10) Our security depended \_\_\_\_\_ vigilance.

(c) Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the word given in brackets.

[10]

(1) I thanked him for what he \_\_\_\_\_. (do)

(2) He usually \_\_\_\_\_ (go) for a morning walk.

(3) I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) for two hours and I am now tired.

(4) The meeting started after the President \_\_\_\_\_. (arrive)

(5) Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new watch as my old one had been stolen.

(6) The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) the lesson before you came to school.

(7) The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to speak to you.

(8) I shall not go to his party unless he \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) me.

(9) You hurried in when it \_\_\_\_\_ (start) raining.

(10) She \_\_\_\_\_ (live) here for the last two months.

#### Question 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

“I vividly remember Eelie’s arrival at Tiger Haven, my home in northern India, in early 1970. The morning I was sitting on a river bank when I noticed a **gang** of road-workers approaching. Behind them followed a forlorn and **diminutive** sandy coloured creature that looked like a jackal. Only the jaunty twist of its **tail**, standing up straight and curling over the top, showed that it was a dog.

But out of the perky face there shone a pair of lustrous, black-rimmed eyes, and as she ingratiatingly accepted a piece of toast, I knew she had come to stay. The peculiar shape of her tail reminded me of an eel and I called her Eelie.

Eelie settled into the routine of Tiger Haven within a few days. Our daily walks took us out of the domain of man and into that of the forest animals. For a small dog, it was a world full of dangers; leopards, for instance, rate dogs high on their list of delicacies. But Eelie’s instincts served her well and she assessed her new environment with remarkable speed.

But to bring a leopard into the household seemed altogether more **audacious**. Nevertheless, I accepted the offer of a four-month old leopard cub that had been found abandoned by two fellow conservationists, Anne and Belinda Wright. My aim was to see if I could bring him up and set him free in the wild and so make a small but perhaps valuable contribution to the dwindling leopard population in the forest behind my home.

The Wrights brought him by train to Lucknow where I met them in my jeep. Anne Wright held the leopard on a collar and leash. Eelie came up and immediately tried to nip the cub in the rump and continued to be aggressive all day.

On the second day the **atmosphere** was calmer. By the third, Eelie and the cub, whom I called Prince, went off together to explore some nearby bushes. Acceptance seemed complete. We spent that night together on the veranda, Eelie and Prince sleeping on either side of my bed. That both were growing up made it easier for them to forge links of friendship. As their familiarity grew, they would set off into the forest together to hunt, and they made a surprisingly successful team. They also played happily together. It was a fantastic sight for Prince **measured** more than two metres and outweighed Eelie by about five times, yet he took the greatest care not to injure her, even when in the course of their riotous games, the leopard knocked the dog down and sat on her.

I had never brought up a leopard before; so when I was told by a zoo authority that roughage in the form of bird feathers was an essential item in a leopard’s diet, I began going out into the jungle with a rifle to shoot parrots or doves. It fascinated me to see how quickly both Eelie and Prince learned to associate the crack of a shot with the fall of a bird. I am willing to bet that Prince was **the only gun-trained leopard in the world**. However, I realised the futility of the entire proceeding when

I found Prince carefully plucking a dove, pulling feathers out with his teeth and so rejecting the allegedly indispensable roughage.

One morning a few weeks later, we found Prince guarding his first kill of a full grown Chital hind but was then astonished to see him driven off his own kill by his small canine companion. I would never have thought this possible, for the leopard was hungry and the kill was his. It was an amazing display of forbearance, for he would not have tolerated such interference from anyone else. He could have killed or disabled Eelie, yet there was never any question of that; such was the trust and affection between them. It was almost as if, **in the forging of this unlikely bond, species had ceased to matter.**

- (a) (i) Use each of the following words as used in the passage, in a sentence of your own construction so as to bring out its meaning very clearly. Using the word in a context very similar to the passage will be penalized. [3]
- (1) diminutive
  - (2) audacious
  - (3) atmosphere.
- (ii) For each of the words given below write a sentence of at least 10 words, using the same word unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that it carries in the passage: [3]
- (1) tail
  - (2) gang
  - (3) measured.
- (iii) Explain, in the context of the passage, in not more than two sentences of your own, the meaning of each of the following expressions taken from the passage. (Merely using phrases will not do.)
- (1) ... the only gun-trained leopard in the world. [2]
  - (2) ... in the forging of this unlikely bond, species had ceased to matter. [2]
- (b) Answer the following questions as briefly as possible, in your own words:
- (i) Describe Eelie with particular attention to her tail. [3]
  - (ii) Why was the friendship between Prince and Eelie so unlikely? [2]
  - (iii) If you hadn't been told their ages, how would you know that the two animals were not yet grown? Suggest two reasons. [2]
  - (iv) Which incident shows that theory cannot always be put into practice? [3]
- (c) In not more than **60 words**, trace the growing relationship between Prince and Eelie. [Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalized.] [10]