Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**ENGLISH Paper- 1**

**Set A**

***(Two hours)***

*Answers 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 answers.*

*Attempt* ***all four*** *questions*

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

*You are advised to spend not more than* ***35*** *minutes in answering* ***Question 1***

*And* ***20*** *minutes in answering* ***Question 2****.*

**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:**

1. Write an essay on the following topic: Today- The Age of Advertisements.
2. Write a short story which illustrates the truth of the statement: ‘Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.’
3. Festivals have lost their religious and cultural touch. Express your views either for or against this statement.
4. Imagine that you are given the power to change into something else for a day or two. What would you choose to be and what would you do?
5. Looking back at the last two years of your life in school, describe the events that have been significant in shaping you personality.
6. 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 you may take suggestions from it; however there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



**Question 2 [10]**

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

**Select any one of the following:**

1. A sound mind in a sound body was and hopefully still is the mantra about sports. In the present context it has taken a different connotation and sports and sporting events are plagued by controversies rather than the true spirit of the game. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your viewpoints.
2. One of your childhood dreams have become a reality. Describe graphically the dream in a letter to your friend.

**Question 3 [25]**

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

Mumtaz’s eyes excitedly followed the players through clouds of dust they raised. She had managed to slip away from her tutor’s supervision again, to watch a game of chaugan. Emperor Akbar raised his long **mallet** and hit the ball. It caught air and flew between the goal posts. An applause rose from the spectators, nearly drowning out the call for evening prayer. Gradually the twilight set in. The dome of the mosque was **dissolving** quickly and the emperor hurried to finish the game. He was taking aim again but this time there was no strike on mallet on ball. He could no longer see in the fading light. Akbar cursed loudly. At times, sunset decided the fate of the game. He had to stop as it was too dark to see the tiny ball. Mumtaz could **comprehend** the emperor’s annoyance. She loved the game as much as he did. The only difference was that he could play and she could only watch. She had to hurry home then, or she would be in deep trouble. She also had to ascertain that no one noticed her on the way back. But the old gardener, who had been with her family even before her birth, had seen her. He was shaking his head in disapproval, “Where have you been?” “This is the second time you have gone away on your own. I will inform your father about it.” Oh! Please don’t. I just went to see a game of chaugan. “But why must you **sneak off**?” I am sure your father will give you permission.” “I’ll ask for permission next time, I promise.” Mumtaz knew that the gardener was right. Mumtaz’s father was a broadminded man. He had made arrangements for her education at home and many girls were not as lucky. She waited until she saw him return home. She gathered courage to approach him. As he **beckoned** her with a smile, Mumtaz seized her change. “Father, will you allow me to watch chaugan matches? And I can please learn to play it myself?” “Play what?” her father asked, surprised at her request, “Chaugan is for me, Mumtaz.” It helps us train for war. What will you do learning it? “There is more to the game than just training for the battlefield, father. I love its excitement, its speed!” Mumtaz exclaimed.

**(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage: [5]**

(i) mallet

(ii) dissolving

(iii) comprehend

(iv) sneak off

(v) beckoned

**(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:**

(i) Who is the tutor mentioned in the text? Why did he say that Mumtaz’s father would certainly give permission? **[2]**

(ii) What did Mumtaz like about the game? What was her father’s approach regarding her choice? **[2]**

(iii) What shows that Mumtaz’s father was a broadminded man? **[2]**

(iv) Why did Emperor Akbar want to wind up the game fast? **[2]**

(v) What was the similarity and difference in Mumtaz’s and Emperor Akbar’s love for the game? **[2]**

**(c) (i) In not more than 60 words, describe the relationship between Mumtaz and her father. [8]**

**(ii) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). Give a reason to justify your choice. [2]**

**Question 4**

1. **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]**

It\_\_ (1) \_\_\_ (be) market day at Goderville, peasants and their wives from around the country \_\_ (2) \_\_\_ (come) to town. The men \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (trudge) slowly on their\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ (crook) legs, deformed by years of \_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_ (toil) on the fields. Their starched blue shirts \_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_ (blow) around their bony bodies like balloons. Some of them\_\_\_\_ (7) \_\_\_ (drag) a cow or a calf at the end of a rope. Following the party \_\_\_ (8) \_\_\_\_ (be) the wives.

1. **Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word: [4]**
2. The dog barked \_\_\_me when I approached the park.
3. He did not speak \_\_\_me as he was angry.
4. His legacy has to be looked\_\_\_ post his death.
5. The car broke \_\_\_ in the middle of the road.
6. As we did not know the address we had to ask\_\_\_\_.
7. All the evidence adds \_\_\_\_ to nothing.
8. Demonetisation has caused the business machinery to break\_\_\_.
9. They would go \_\_\_\_the fields with sharp sickles.
10. **Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and, but* or *so*: [4]**
11. The parcel is very heavy. Rubina cannot carry the parcel.
12. Local eateries offer vegetarian food. This happens only at Kedarnath.
13. The teacher taught the class. He went home.
14. Sania looked him over. She tried to judge his abilities.

**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]**

1. The king was too glad to not make peace. (Remove ‘too’)
2. For Christmas, the home is decorated with colourful paper chains, leaves of holly and mistletoe and attractive greeting cards are received. (Use ‘not only…. but also’)
3. In spite of the heavy rain, all the employers were present. (Use ‘but’)
4. You are ordered to sit down. (Begin with ‘Let…’)
5. We must listen to his speech. (End the sentence with ‘us’)
6. Karan said, “I have invited you on business, Father.” (Rewrite in indirect speech)
7. One of the most pleasant things in the world is going on a journey. (Use ‘as… as’)
8. He conducted the programme as if he was an expert. (Use ‘like’)