Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**ENGLISH Paper- 1**

**Set A**

***(Two hours)***

**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 a story with the beginning: 'It was a quiet, cold and dark night, like it usually is in winters when all retire to bed early.
2. [Violence in the media causes violence in children](https://www.privatewriting.com/argumentative-essay/example-violence-in-children-and-the-media). Express your views for or against the given statement.
3. You have gone to a restaurant with your friends. Suddenly, you notice a bag under your table. Describe your feelings at the time and narrate what you did next.
4. It is very difficult to judge oneself and be able to accept one’s flaws. Narrate an incident that you encountered and how someone showed a mirror to your mistakes.
5. 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. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper complaining about how even educated people break rules and how it is needed to advocate civic sense in citizens of the country. Suggest a few measures.
2. Your brother, who is a hostel, is very fond of eating street food. As a result, he keeps getting sick. Write a letter telling him about the harmful effects of junk food and advising him to eat healthy food.

**Question 3 [15]**

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

In the days of King Louis, there lived a poor juggler by the name of Barnabas, a native of Compeigne, who wandered from city to city performing tricks of skills and prowess. On fair days he would lay down in the public square a worn and aged carpet, and after having attracted a group of children and idlers by certain amusing remarks which he had learned from an old juggler, and which he invariably repeated in the same fashion without altering a word, he would assume the strangest postures, and balance a pewter plate on the tip of his nose. At first the crowd regarded him with indifference, but when, with his hands and head on the ground he threw into the air and caught with his feet, six copper balls that glittered in the sunlight, or when, throwing himself back until his neck touched his feels he assumed the form of a perfect wheel and in that position, juggled with twelve knives, he elicited a murmur of admiration from his audience, and small coins rained on his carpet. Still, Barnabas of Compeigne, like most of those who exist by their accomplishments, had hard time making a living. Earning his bread by the sweat of his brow, he bore rather more than his share of those miseries we all are heir to, through the fault of our father Adam. Besides, he was unable to work as much as he would have liked, for, in order to exhibit his wonderful talents, he required- like the trees-the warmth if the sun and the heat of the day. In winter time he was no more than a tree stripped of its leaves, in fact, half-dead. The frozen Earth was too hard for the juggler. Like the cicada mentioned by Marie de France, he suffered during the bad season from hunger and cold. But, since he had a simple heart, he suffered in silence. He had never thought much about the origin of wealth nor about the inequality of human conditions. He firmly believe that if this world was evil the next could not but be good, and his faith upheld him. He was not like the clever fellows who sell their souls to the devil; he never took the name of God in vain, he lived the life of an honest man, and though he had no wife of his own, he did not covet his neighbour’s, for woman is the enemy of strong men, as we learn by the story of Samson, which is written in the Scriptures.

**(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage: [3]**

(i) prowess – skill or expertise in a particular activity.

(ii) elicited – evoke or draw out (a reaction, answer or fact) from someone.

(iii) accomplished – highly trained or skilled in a particular activity.

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

(i) Who was Barnabas? What did he do? **[2]**

**Ans:** Barnabas was a native of Compeigne, who wandered from city to city performing tricks

of skills and prowess.

(ii) How did he attract the attention of the children? **[2]**

**Ans:**  He attracted the attention of children by certain amusing remarks which he had learned

From an old juggler, and which he invariably repeated in the same fashion without

altering a word, he would assume the strangest postures, and balance a pewter plate on

the tip of his nose.

(iii) Why was he unable to work as much as he would have liked to? **[2]**

**Ans:** He was unable to work as much as he liked because he required- like the trees- the

warmth if the sun and the heat of the day. In winter time he was no more than a tree

stripped of its leaves, in fact, half-dead. The frozen Earth was too hard for the juggler.

(iv) Describe Barnabas’ condition in the bad season. **[2]**

**Ans:** Like the cicada mentioned by Marie de France, he suffered during the bad season from

hunger and cold. But, since he had a simple heart, he suffered in silence.

(v) What thought kept him going in spite of his miserable condition? **[2]**

**Ans:** He had never thought much about the origin of wealth nor about the inequality of

human conditions. He firmly believed that if the world was evil the next could not be

good, and his faith upheld him.

(vi) How was he different from the other clever fellows? **[2]**

**Ans:** He was not like the clever fellows who sell their souls to the devil; he never took the

name of God in vain, hr lived the life of an honest man, and though he had no wife of

his own, he did not covet’s his neighbour’s.

**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]**

Sue Thomas is a fashion designer. She (1) has been making (make) clothes ever since she was (be) a young girl. She (3) got (get) her first job in a clothes factory when she was sixteen. She (4) was sewing (sew) buttons onto a shirt one day when she (5) had (have) a brilliant idea for a design. After she (6) spoke (speak) to her bank manager, she got a loan and she (7) opened (open) her own little workshop. Now she (8) made (make) lots of money.

1. **Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word: [6]**
2. He was very worthy of the praise.
3. That is the reason for/of his success.
4. They discussed the issue \_over\_ a cup of tea.
5. He went for a ride in his new car.
6. First the roof gave in and then the walls.
7. The dog has been run over by a car.
8. The students should avail themselves to such opportunities.
9. I have no pen to write with.
10. My best friend is named after his great-grandfather.
11. I will see you at home when I get there.
12. On hearing the siren, I pulled over and stopped the car.
13. All applications are subjected to approval from the board.
14. **Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and, but* or *so*: [8]**
15. John saw me in trouble. He came to help.

When John saw me in trouble, he came to help. (After seeing.., as/ since/because/ Seeing me…)

1. John gave me the book. He wanted me to review it.

John gave me the book which/ that he wanted me to review it. (because/as/since he wanted….)

1. He has learnt to cycle. He has yet to learn to swim.

Though/ although he has learnt to cycle, he….. (yet, still)

1. Sunita opened her purse. She found the money missing.

When/On opening Sunita…… , she found the money missing.

1. There was traffic. I reached my school on time.

Though/ although there was traffic, I reached…. (yet, still)

1. Deepa was praised. She was rewarded.

Deepa was praised as well as rewarded.

1. Jayesh is innocent. She knows it.
2. Mona made an error which was careless. Mona made a careless error.

**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. [12]**

1. She is slower than most of the girls in the class. (Use ‘slow’)

Ans: Very few girls are as slow as she is.

1. The joker made us laugh. (Start with ‘We…..)

Ans: We were made to laugh by the joker.

1. No sooner did he catch sight of a policeman than he ran away. (Use ‘As soon as’)

Ans: As soon as he caught sight of a policeman, he ran away.

1. There was a heavy rain in the evening. (Use adverb form of the adjective)

Ans: It was raining heavily in the evening.

1. I said to my friend, “Let us go to the mall tomorrow for lunch.” (Change into indirect speech)

Ans: I suggested my friend to go to the mall the next day for lunch.

1. Who doesn’t want to be happy? (Remove ‘not’)

Ans: Everyone wants to be happy.

1. My suitcase is so heavy that it cannot be easily carried. (Remove ‘so’)

Ans: My suitcase is too heavy to carry.

1. The bed was very hard, yet he slept like a baby. (Begin: In spite of…)

Ans: Inspite of the bed being hard, he slept like a baby.

1. If you do not hurry, you will be late. (Use ‘Unless’)

Ans: Unless you hurry, you’ll be late.

1. We have to study for it. (Use ‘compulsory’)

Ans: It is compulsory for us to study for it.

1. Hardworking people are always successful. (Begin with ‘(People’)

Ans: People who are hardworking are always successful.

1. I never thought that they would win. (Begin: Little…. )

Ans: Little did I think that they would win.