

G. D. SOMANI MEMORIAL SCHOOL

PRELIM EXAMS

SUB: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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MARKS: 80

DATE: 8/1/08

TIME: 2 HRS.

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

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

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following.

[25]

- a] If India had still to be under the British rule; our country would have been far more advanced than what it is today. Give your views for or against this statement.
- b] Recollect a shocking experience in your life, which proved to be a lesson for you. Narrate the incident and its consequences on you and your near and dear ones.
- c] Doctors and teachers have become pure businessmen and have lost the sanctity and nobility of their profession. Give your views for or against this statement.
- d] Study the picture below. Write a story or description or an account of what this picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it, but there must be some clear connection between the picture and the composition.



Question: 2

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

[10]

Select *ONE* of the following:

- a) Write a letter to a friend expressing your relief at his return from a dangerous excursion.
- b) Write a letter to the editor about how we citizens are responsible for the increase of beggars in the city and the steps that can be taken to bring down their population.

Question: 3

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow: [25]

I have often thought it would be a blessing if each human being were stricken blind and deaf for a few days at some time during his early adult life. Darkness would make him more appreciative of sight; silence would teach him the joys of sound.

I who cannot see find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch. I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf. I pass my hands lovingly about the smooth skin of a slender birch, or the rough, shaggy bark of a pine. In spring, I touch the branches of trees hopefully in search of a bud, the first sign of awakening Nature after her winter's sleep. Occasionally, I am very fortunate; I place my hand gently on a small tree and feel the happy quiver of a bird in full song.

At times, my heart cries out with longing to see all these things. If I can get so much pleasure from mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight. And I have imagined what I should most like to see if I were given the use of my eyes, say, for just three days.

I should divide the period into three parts. On the first day, I should want to see the people whose kindness and companionship have made my life worth living. I do not know what it is to see into the heart of a friend through that 'window of the soul', the eye. I can only 'see' through my fingertips the outline of a face. I can detect laughter, sorrow, and many other obvious emotions. I know my friends from the feel of their faces.

The next day I should arise with the dawn and see the thrilling miracle by which night is transformed into day. I should behold with awe the magnificent panorama of light with which the sun awakens the sleeping earth. This day I should devote to a hasty glimpse of the world, past and present. I should want to see the pageant of man's progress, and so I should go to museums. There my eyes would see the condensed history of the earthy - animals and the races of men pictured in their native environment; gigantic carcasses of dinosaurs and mastodons that roamed the earth before man appeared, with his tiny stature and powerful brain to conquer the animal kingdom.

The following morning, I should again greet the dawn, anxious to discover new delights, new revelations of beauty. Today, this third day, I shall spend in the workaday world, amid the haunts of men going about the business of life. The city becomes my destination.

First, I stand at a busy corner, merely looking at people, trying by sight of them to understand something of their daily lives. I see smiles, and I am happy. I see serious determination, and I am proud. I see suffering, and I am compassionate.

At midnight, permanent night would close in on me again. Naturally in those three short days I should not have seen all I wanted to see. Only when darkness had again descended upon me should I realise how much I had left unseen.

I who am blind can give one hint to those who can see: use your eyes as if tomorrow you would be stricken blind. And the same method can be applied to your other senses. Hear the music of voice, the song of a bird, the mighty strains of an orchestra, as if you would be stricken deaf tomorrow. Touch each object as if tomorrow your tactile sense would fail. Smell the perfume of flowers, taste with relish each morsel, as if tomorrow you could never smell and taste again. Make the most of every sense; glory in all the facets of pleasure and beauty, which the world reveals to you through the several means of contact, which Nature provides. But of all the senses, I am sure that sight must be the most delightful.

Questions:

- a] Five words are given below. Give the meaning of each word as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. [5]
- Symmetry
 - Quiver
 - Transformed
 - Panorama
 - Relish.
- b] Answer the following questions in your own words:
- The writer says that it would be a blessing if everyone were struck blind and deaf once in their life time. Why does she say this? [2]
 - Why does Helen Keller touch the branches of a tree? [2]
 - If Helen Keller was given three days of sight what would she like to see first and why? [2]
 - Why is Helen Keller interested to go to the museum? [2]
 - When the city becomes Helen's destination what would she do? [2]
- c] Précis Writing.
Explain in 60 words the advice that she gives to people who can see? [8]
- d] Suggest a title for the passage to explain why you have chosen the title. [2]

Question: 4

- [A] Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [5]
- I started training _____ my guruji for more than three months in Bharatnatyam.
 - Staying fit is an important aspect _____ our profession.
 - People think of you as the Lady _____ a Midas touch.
 - I have no idea _____ what these tabloids are talking about.
 - She ran _____ the police station for help.
- [B] In the following passage fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word give in brackets. Do not copy this passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [5]

The children 1 (stop) chattering as Miss Hughes 2 (enter) the classroom. Then they 3 (stand) up as one body and 4 (say) in a loud chorus.

"Good Morning teacher".

Miss Hughes 5 (smile) 6 (say) good morning too and 7 (tell) the class 8 (sit) down. At a glance there 9 (seen) 10 (be) about 30 pupils in the class.

[C] Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that maybe necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence.

[10]

- i. Divya said, "Alas! My friend is sick". [Rewrite by removing inverted commas]
- ii. What a beautiful dress you are wearing! [End:is]
- iii. I advise you not to take that route. [Use 'advisable'.]
- iv. This should be of the greatest value to mankind. [Begin: Nothing.....]
- v. A liar is seldom trusted. [Begin: A person.....]
- vi. She is petrified of snakes. [Use: 'petrify']
- vii. She has written a book. Have you read it? [Combine the sentence begin Have.....]
- viii. The situation was filled with high drama. [Use 'highly' in place of 'high']
- ix. I found this rare stamp in an antique shop. [Begin: I came.....]
- x. Many years have passed since she corresponded with me. [End: Ago]