

ST. GREGORIOS HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 07

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STD. X TIME : 2 HRS SUB : ENGLISH LANGUAGE -PAPER I

NOTE : You will NOT be allowed to write during the first 10 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.

I. Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question.

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following : [25]

- a. You have witnessed a comical scene that took place at a bus stop while you were waiting for a bus. Give a vivid narration of the scene bringing out the humour in the entire incident.
- b. Write an original story ending with the words – it never pays to cheat our friends.
- c. 'It is important for our country to progress even at the cost of Rural India'. Give your views for or against this statement.
- d. Suggest a few changes in school life, which would make learning and your life in the school more interesting.
- 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 the composition.



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

Select one of the following.

[10]

- a. Write a letter to your grand parents telling them how you would like to pursue your ambition, after the tenth standard.
- b. Write a letter to your local newspaper complaining about the frequent and prolonged power cuts and problems, faced by you and the other residents in your locality.

III. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :-[25]

When you cultivate a habit, you save a lot of time, spent usually in getting ready to do something. For example, when you wake up at a fixed time, you save the energy needed on the effort to wake up. The extra effort you waste in routine things like getting up early, beginning your studies, going for bath or in doing your homework can be utilized more fruitfully, if you develop the habit of doing all these things at a fixed time.

Therefore, chalk out a time-table for all regular work. Habits are great time savers. They gift you plenty of time for play and entertainment.

You may feel that there is no particular need to wake up early except during the Examination time. Such thinking is common among people who fail to do great things. To be able to get up early at the time of the examination, you have to cultivate the habit right now. You will save a lot of time and energy involved in the effort to get up early, if early rising becomes the norm in your life.

Good habits repay you in every sphere, including sports. You know how often some batsmen get out playing a ball rashly. Why does this happen? It is because, playing carefully, curbing the impulse to hit the ball pitched outside the off stump has not developed by these batsmen as a habit.

What is true of cricket is true of our day-to-day life also. I have a friend who is intelligent, but who is always late for his appointments. If he has an appointment at 10 A.M. he reaches there at 10.30 A.M. He is a habitual late-comer at the office also. This creates a bad impression on his superiors. Do you know why he cannot come on time? It is because he never went to school on time. As a child, he never went even to play with his friends at a fixed time. That habit stuck to him.

Those of you who do not do your homework regularly will not be able to organize your work efficiently when you become an executive, a doctor, an engineer or a teacher.

The scientists and engineers about whom you read, achieved what seems impossible to you simply because when their colleagues were relaxing and whiling away their time, they used their time judiciously to concentrate on the work on hand and went ahead.

Chart your own time-table for the daily activities. Allocate fixed times for getting up, study, exercise and going to bed. Offer prayers at fixed times of the day. Walk two kilometers every morning. Once you have chalked out your time-table, stick to it. True, it is not an easy task. Even getting up at a fixed time may seem very difficult at first. The first day's battle will be worn with great difficulty. You may use an alarm clock, if necessary, for a few days. After a week, you will certainly not need the alarm clock. You will have a built-in alarm within you. The habit you cultivate of getting up early is far more effective than the alarm sounded by the clock. The clock can only sound the alarm. The built-in alarm, the habit, will force you to get up. You will be able to get up effortlessly. By following a time-table you have yourself charted, you will find yourself in increasingly greater control of your thoughts and actions.

The following small experiment demonstrates the power of habits to you. Take a reel of sewing thread. You can break it with your little finger. Tomorrow, weave another thread into the first thread. Weave one more thread every day. After seven days, you will find it difficult to break the slender "rope" you have prepared. After a month or so, it will be impossible for you to cut the rope even with a knife. This is equally true of habits. Make a habit of getting up early and you will find it difficult not to get up early. Coir fibres are delicate but weave a rope out of them and you can tie up even a mighty elephant.

- a. Give the meaning of each of the following words or expressions as used in the passage -
- i. cultivate ii. curbing iii. judiciously [3]
- b. Answer the following questions -
- i. Enumerate the good effects of cultivating a habit, in one's daily life. [3]
- ii. What role do 'good habits' play in the field of sports? [2]
- iii. What is the reason for the writer's friend being a perpetual late-comer to office? [2]
- iv. How did famous scientists and engineers become great achievers in life? [2]
- v. Explain in your own words, the experiment that talks about the power of habits. [3]
- c.i. In not more than 60 words, explain the importance and how one can go about chalking out one's daily activities in life. [8]
- ii. Give a suitable title and reason for the same. [2]

IV.a. Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. [5]
Next month, I have a week's vacation. I _____ [plan] to take a trip. First, I _____ [go] to Madison, to visit my brother. After I _____ [leave] Madison, I _____ [go] to Chicago to see a friend who _____ [study] at a University there. She _____ [live] in Chicago for three years, so she _____ [know] her way around the city. She _____ [promise] to take me to many interesting places. I _____ [be, never] in Chicago. So I _____ [look] forward to going there.

IV.b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words - [5]

- ① She acted on her father's advice.
2. My friend backed me after promising me support.
3. The discovery of this medicine is a break through in the world of medicine.
4. The accused appealed for mercy.
- ⑤ Our path to success was beset with difficulties.
- ⑥ My sister is always oblivious to what is happening around her.
- ⑦ My mother was wise enough to save for a rainy day
- ⑧ He is longing for the day when he will be able to earn his own living.
9. The tourist was desirous of visiting India.
10. The jewel was sold for thrice its cost price.

IV.c. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each.

Do not change the meaning of each sentence. [5]

- ① A large portion of butter was stuck to the knife. (End.....it)
2. But for the rain we should have had a pleasant journey. (Begin If)
3. It does not matter how strong he is. This attack of influenza is going to weaken his stamina. (Begin... However.....)
4. Arun said, "Alas ! I am ruined for life" (Begin : Arun sorrowfully.....)
5. Why did your father refuse such a fine job? (Begin. Why was.....?)

IV.d. Use each word of the given pair in sentences to bring out the difference in the meanings - [5]

1. Persecute - prosecute
2. Tamper - temper
3. Compliment - Complement
4. Dual - Duel
5. Coarse - Course

X.X.X.X.X

The knife had a large piece of butter stuck to it.