

MT EDUCARE LTD.

ICSE X

SUBJECT : **ENGLISH PAPER I**

BOARD PAPER - 2013

ANSWERSHEET

Answer 1.

- (a) In the background, I could hear an awful commotion, men's voices raised and women screaming. I could hear my mom yelling at the top of her voice complaining to the Ticket Checker about the cancellation of the train. It caused us great inconvenience to be put up at Ratlam station, at the waiting room with barely any facilities. Our fellow commuters, who had by now become our friends, raised their voices complaining about how the railways could be so irresponsible with its commuters.

This was also because majority of the passengers were women who wanted to get back to Mumbai, to their friends and family. On the other hand, we had been to a month long trip to Delhi and nearby places, and were eager to get back home to my father who was eagerly waiting for us. I was 11 back then, and was too young to comprehend as to what was the gravity of all the whole situation. The nearest airport was at least 150 kilometres away, and getting there was impossible because the weather had taken a wild turn, and there was constant thunder and lightning, as a result of which, no taxis were plying to Bhopal. In such circumstances, the cancelling of the Bhopal - Mumbai mail seemed as a life torturing situation, for we had stayed at the railway station for close to 48 hours. As the discussion with the ticket collector and the station master failed, and no train could possibly take us to Mumbai, we had to take the road. The chances for a plane back to Mumbai seemed slim because of the adverse weather conditions. My mom made a resolve to wade through the turbulent weather and somehow find a taxi for ourselves to cover the distance to Mumbai. At first it seemed like a bad decision because let alone a taxi, not a single soul could be found in the dreadful weather. We were drenched because of the rain and help wasn't forthcoming. And then suddenly out of the blue, we saw a blue Ambassador car approaching, coming from the violent and malevolent storm. The man asked where we wanted to go, and he obliged to help us. Wading through the dark and gloomy lanes without wipers working at full swing, and the surrounding weather being strong enough to mow anything that came in its path, we were holding on to our lives. The car, which is usually a safe place, seemed like a cage surrounded by wild hyenas. The storm lasted for around two hours, and although the driver just waded his way through the highway, looking into the translucent mirror of the car, we were holding our breath, and prayers fled from our mind to the almighty.

And then suddenly, we saw familiar ground. The Retreat hotel, which

marks the beginning of Mumbai. The rain had also subsided, and voila, we were in Mumbai, my dad came to receive us and then hugged me and my mom. We wanted to thank the sixty year old driver, but the moment all the sad drama with my father, mother and me ended, we looked back to pay the taxi three fold of what he deserved to get us home safely. He was greeting his family members, who must have rived when we were busy greeting my father. We then knew the reason for his utmost perseverance to come to Mumbai. [25]

(b) Just last week, my cousin Aditya was sent to a boarding school at Mahabaleshwar to complete his schooling. As any Indian household, as he packed his bags to leave for his new sojourn, there was a lot of commotion in the house. My grandmother shed a lot of tears for she would seldom get to see him, My uncle gave Aditya confidence and the much needed motivation to stay alone through a lot of pep-talk. My aunt was confused as everything was happening at a brisk pace for her to keep up. Amidst all this, I stood there wondering what my role was in the whole build up to the departure of my cousin. And that's when this strange question popped up in my mind. Was boarding school necessarily better than day- schools? Was all the hype that surrounds boarding schools worth it? Were boarding schools even worth sending one's child to and spending the extra money, since most of us, at least people who belonged to the previous generation, have been mostly schooled at the usual day schools and are doing pretty well for ourselves?

The boarding schools have better disciplinary and academic achievement roles, since students are always in and around the school or boarding premises. This ensures that the school and its teachers can monitor the activity of each student at all times. The same can be reported to the parents via text messages or a phone call, which also puts the parents at ease of knowing that their ward is never too far away from them, and in safe hands.

Boarding schools also help in the overall development of the child, by focussing equally on extra-curricular activities, owing to the time advantage that they have. So, be it sports or any cultural activity, the exposure that boarding schools provide in matters of extra-curricular activity, cannot be compared to a day school. This ensures that the child is not just a book-worm, but also takes up a sport or a soft-skill as a hobby, or maybe even as a profession in the future.

In boarding schools you start a good transition. One can call this a mini metamorphosis that you will have to enter when you go to college. It helps with coping with things better and it provides a less shocking experience while still helping the individual to be independent and still seeking for help. Also, boarding schools provide guidance so you get support and independence at the same time.

But that's not to say that all is rosy with boarding schools. They have their own flaws and drawbacks which is quite well known to the general

public in India. There is no doubt in my mind that the benefit of family life, especially family communication, is better when you are a day pupil. The family unit is very important in the formative years and the love and affection that a family guarantees, cannot be compared to the care and love that a boarding school could possibly offer.

Distance cannot always be shortened with technology. Although, with the inception of video calling and even phone calls, students are still at least 300 kilometres away, which could put them at a risk from a number of areas. Health of the child, and the diseases she/he suffers from, can be best monitored and cared for by a home doctor and parents. A school, as hard as it were, still is a school and not the best in terms of healthcare for a child. If there is a health concern that needs immediate attention, parents are far away to get to their child and provide immediate attention.

Last, but not the least, is the fact that although schools monitor the child at all times, there have been far too many instances of the child going awry at boarding schools and getting themselves in bad company. The result may have met with dire consequences for both the parents and the child.

That leaves us with the question as to whether boarding schools are actually better or day schools, And I would say that day schools do just fine as far as all round development of a child is concerned.

Day schools are finding ways to introduce extra-curricular activities and provide good education at the same time, which ensures that parents can be close to their students thereby cementing a good standard of education. Moreover, boarding schools fees touch the roof these days and might not be feasible for everyone to afford which makes day school a better bet. Finally, independence and self-reliance is something parents can inculcate themselves in the child. Yes, boarding schools are coming up and giving a great alternative to parents and students alike, but as they say, there is nothing like home. With the benefit of good schooling and parental guidance in proximity, one can have the cake and eat it too.

[25]

- (c) Our school had organized a trip to Ooty, I gleefully decided to join the trip along with my friends. We took permission from our parents and left for Ooty on Sunday evening. We reached our hotel in the morning and after lunch, our teachers asked us to rest. We spent the whole day, just lazing around in our room and hotel, doing nothing and recuperating from the tiring journey.

The next day after breakfast, we left for our trekking spot. Subsequently we went to a local restaurant for lunch we then went river rafting. It was dark when we left for our hotel We had only reached half way, when suddenly the bus stopped. The driver told us that the front left tyre had punctured. We were a little worried because we couldn't arrange for any help and were stuck in a God for forsaken place. We had no inkling as to what we should do because it was very

dark and we knew no garage, because the place was unfamiliar. The driver went hunting for a garage so that he could get it fixed. A couple of hours later the bus driver returned with a man who worked in a garage.

This man was extremely helpful and he assisted the driver in changing the tyre. While they were fixing the problem, we saw a picturesque valley nearby. Since it was dark, we couldn't see a lot. But the place was very beautiful and a cold breeze was blowing. We spotted a small tea corner a few yards away, and we decided to wait there until the problem was fixed. Once the tyre was replaced we restarted our journey. We were very thankful to the man as he even escorted us to our hotel. It was midnight by the time we reached the hotel.

Once we reached the hotel, we settled in our rooms and gathered back for dinner in the hall. Our teachers had also insisted that the stranger who helped us should stay back for dinner with us. He hesitated, but after much persuasion he stayed back. Everyone was there, but the man who had helped us was nowhere to be seen. We looked around, but could not locate him. So we inquired with the hotel staff. We were amazed by what the staff said. They said that they did not see any person accompanying us and no one had come with us to the hotel or had dinner with us. We were shocked! I started getting goose bumps. Where did the man disappear suddenly? Why hadn't anyone other than us seen him?

On enquiring further, we came to know that it had happened with a lot of people earlier as well. They had been accompanied by a stranger to the hotel, who would later suddenly disappear into thin air. The local myth was that he was a good spirit who wandered around just to help people who were in trouble. Others said, that he was a maniac. No one knew who he was exactly was, but all of us were terrified by this. I could not sleep the entire night and many more nights that followed.

We came back to Mumbai after three days, but I have not been able to get over the episode till date. The incident still gives me goose bumps
I will never be able to forget that trip to Ooty.

[25]

(d) TEACHING THE ART OF CAKE BAKING

Recently one of my friends wanted to learn how to bake a cake. One might think why something like baking a cake needs to be taught. It is just eggs, flour, butter, sugar and a few more ingredients. How difficult could it be? Well, it can be very difficult. My friend came to me to learn baking a cake, But the cake did not rise enough to be fluffy. It got burnt and remained under-cooked. While baking a cake one must be aware of the exact recipe, the exact method and also one must know one's oven well, including the timing required to bake the cake to perfection.

When I taught my friend how to bake a cake these are the

steps that I taught her to ensure that the cake is made properly. I taught her how to make a basic sponge cake which is the base of many cake recipes. The following were the steps that I taught her:

- First, I listed all the ingredients that were needed. One required the usual eggs, sugar, flour, butter, vanilla extract and baking powder.
 - Once she had all the ingredients in place, I explained how the batter is made and all the tricks involved to make a good batter.
 - After my friend folded the batter in a correct manner the next step was to teach her how to grease the cake tin.
 - Once the cake was ready and I had shown my friend the correct temperature, the oven needed to be preheated to, She placed the cake in the oven to bake, as per the time and temperature that was told by me.
 - She then took the beautifully risen golden cake out of the oven and we checked whether it was perfectly cooked.
 - Once cooled we carefully removed the cake from the tin.
- My friend was amazed that she could make a nice cake by following simple steps and exact measurements. The delighted look on her face was truly wonderful to see after which we both cut nice large portions of the cake and enjoyed eating our delicious sponge cake. What gave me more satisfaction was the fact that it was because I taught her to bake the cake. No wonder they say that teaching someone can be rewarding. Her smile, and the fact that even in the future, she would remember me everytime she bakes a cake, gave me a feeling of high.

[25]

(e) PICTURE COMPOSITION

The other day, I went to spend some leisurely time at the lake near my house. The lake is one of the most preferred picnic spots for the people living in the vicinity. My friends and I were wont to this type of outing. So we packed our food and drinks and headed towards the spot. It was a sunny winter day so we were quite happy that we could spend our day enjoying in the sunlight. Unfortunately our enjoyment was short lived.

On reaching there, as we were about to set up our seating place when we heard some school kids screaming. The noise was so loud that we couldn't ignore and moved towards the direction from where the screams came from. To our surprise, we saw 4 school kids, all quite young, sitting on an elephant along with the master of the elephant. That was not the usual scene of an elephant ride because the animal was crossing the lake with five people sitting on it. The lake was deep and the water was quite cold that day. So the elephant was very uncomfortable crossing the lake. The elephant was continually losing its balance and this was the reason that the kids were screaming. Everybody present there were looking at the helpless kids and the sheer helplessness with which the elephant tried to meander its way

through the muddled water. Although the kids were holding each other, they still they seemed to be afraid. Suddenly, the elephant lost its balance and the five people, including the master of the elephant, fell into the water. The kids started yelling for help. My friends and I didn't think twice and jumped into the lake to their rescue. We all were good at swimming, hence did not find it difficult to save the kids. The elephant's master was a good swimmer, so he helped himself. The poor elephant, also managed to stand back on its feet, albeit with a few bruises for sure, though they weren't visible. Everyone was safe and we were relieved. All kids came out of the water safely. On asking, the animal's master told that kids insisted for a ride on elephant in the lake. Despite warning them of the heavy flow of the water in the lake, the children persisted with their demands. Although for the elephant it was a normal routine to walk in the lake water, but with water being so cold and muddy, and carrying five people on its back, including its own weight, it succumbed and fell. However, everything became normal very soon. Although everyone was worried for the kids, I felt very bad for the elephant who wasn't able to speak a word, yet made it clear with its actions that it couldn't go on any longer. It brought a question to my mind regarding the way we treat animals. Was it right to treat and force animals the way we do, using them to carry our load and us, just because they can't speak? I believe not, yet we do it every single day of our lives since time immemorial. And then we proudly call ourselves 'humans'.

[25]

Answers 2.

- (a) 4/A, Neelkanth Society
Malad (West)
Mumbai- 400064.
3rd March, 2014.

Dearest Grandpa,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and hope grandma is doing fine too. Today I write to you with a special intention, and that is to let you know the subjects that I wish to opt for my class XI and XII.

As you know grandpa, I am in class X now and I will soon be passing out of school. I will be at an important juncture in my career where I have to choose the subjects wise and well. I wish to pursue English literature as my major subject and also graduate in it. English has always been my favourite subject even in school, and I wish to take it up further to explore the newer avenues the subject has to offer. I am extremely passionate about the subject, and as I've seen the curriculum that is designed for English literature, I can safely say that it is not only interesting but also offers a wide scope in the

future. Along with English, I also wish to take up History as my second subject of choice.

Grandpa, as you know, I have always been fond of journalism as a career option, and I firmly believe that studying English literature will give me a firm footing at that. Additionally, a sound knowledge of History will do no harm, and it will only add to my knowledge of the trends in the past, both globally and nationally. I aspire to become like Barkha Dutt and emulate her in the way she covers and reports stories.

I have spoken about it to mom and dad and even they have supported me to fulfil my aspirations. This letter was just to inform you regarding my intent in the future and seek your blessings for all my endeavours ahead. I will write to you as soon as my X standard results are out, and the college in which I decide to take admissions. Give my regards to grandma and Ravi uncle.

Yours lovingly,
Rohan.

[10]

(b) 36, Neptune Towers
Civil Lines
Mumbai – 400064.
23rd March, 2014.

The Editor,
The Times of India,
D.N. Road,
Mumbai- 400001.



Subject: The need for a playground in my neighbourhood.

Sir,

Through your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw your reader's attention to the problem of lack of open grounds and park for children to play in and for recreation. This is a grave issue and has been taken up a number of times in your newspaper, but this letter pertains to my area specifically.

Human life is moving at a brisk pace and progress has almost become synonymous to monetary status. Amidst the quick pace of adult life, we often tend to leave out kids who have no one to address their concerns to. We have encroached upon every single piece of land available to build either residential or corporate buildings. That leaves the kids to go nowhere in order to play, breathe in fresh air and take a break from the monotony of studies.

In our area, there is no open park for children to play any outdoor games because there are buildings everywhere. As a result, children resort to playing on the road amidst vehicles that move at a rapid

speed. This can cause danger to the life of these innocent kids. Not to mention, the excessive noise pollution caused by these vehicles in our area to make these kids move, so that they can use the road. We can't blame the kids for they are merely playing, having nowhere else to go, nor can we blame the drivers who want to drive on roads.

It is a bliss when children from your locality can play outdoors, and seeing them smile is a different joy in itself. Also, playing outdoors helps immensely to cut down on the ever growing stress levels, and providing a respite from studies. It is essential that these children be given a separate park or an open playground to play and be physically active, because playing on the road puts their lives at risk and isn't a viable alternative at all. It is wisely said that 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy', and if we don't want to produce a generation of merely sitting ducks, it is time we take action, build a playground in our area and let these kids play in the open and breathe in some fresh air and be active. Not only kids, but an open area or a park can help immensely for anyone who wants to take a stroll in the mornings or evenings.

I hope your newspaper will understand the need of a playground for children, and play an active role in ushering in the necessary changes to infrastructure to accommodate a playing area for kids.

Yours faithfully,
Rohan Shah.



[10]

Answer :

- (a) (i) nimbleness, quick [1]
(ii) to greet someone [1]
(iii) Beast, devil, savage. [1]
- (b) (i) Chittru was a lazy boy from the village who preferred fishing in the stream or plucking fruits from other's trees. He did not go to school or work in the fields, like the other boys of the village. [2]
(ii) Bisnu went to school and loved going to school. He did not get forced or coaxed into going to school by anyone, rather it was his own wish to receive a good schooling. He wanted to learn to read and write, as well as anyone in the world, so he walked to school every day to fulfil his aspirations. [2]
(iii) Sarru gave information about a panther who was in the village last night. He also said that these panthers come into the village to feed on their pet animals, because they don't find their natural prey. [2]
(iv) The information given by Sarru excited Bisnu but it didn't excite him. Panthers were common enough in the hills and did not pose a problem to the villagers, except during the winter months. So, Bisnu wasn't startled at the information given by Sarru. [2]

(v) Sarru talks about a man-eater who was in the village six years ago. This story was told to Sarru by his father. Sarru also knew that this man eater killed ten people in their valley alone. Sarru further says that the man-eater mysteriously poisoned itself when it ate the headman of the village. This was the joke made by Sarru that made Bisnu laugh. [2]

(c) (i) Langoors lived in the forest, fed on oak leaves, acorns and other things. They remained on trees and came down to play or sun themselves. They were beautiful, supple-limbed animals, with black faces, silver-grey coats and long tails. They were agile and honest and didn't fear Bisnu. They didn't go to town because the boys threw stones at them. [8]

(ii) The beautiful Langoors.
This title would be apt for the title of the summary, because the narrator describes the beauty of the langoors in a very succinct manner, which makes us believe that they were majestic creatures. [2]

Answer 4.

(a)	(0) was waiting	[½]
	(1) hunted	[½]
	(2) bought	[½]
	(3) was engrossed	[½]
	(4) munched	[½]
	(5) got	[½]
	(6) would blacken	[½]
	(7) took	[½]
	(8) was trying	[½]



(b)	(i) for	[½]
	(ii) to	[½]
	(iii) in	[½]
	(iv) into	[½]
	(v) for	[½]
	(vi) inside	[½]
	(vii) of	[½]
	(viii) among	[½]

(c) (i) If we don't get ready now, we may not have time to reach the airport. [1]

(ii) Mr Liew has been sick since he came back from Japan. [1]

(iii) The debating teams were very happy as they were declared joint-champions. [1]

(iv) After he escaped from prison, he looked for a place where he could hide. [1]

- (d) (i) These windows will need cleaning again. [1]
(ii) My mother said I could go with you, as long as I returned home by five o'clock. [1]
(iii) There will be no difference in the results, whichever chemical you put into the mixture first. [1]
(iv) Do you know to whom does this pen belong?
(v) Due to heavy rains, the outdoor garden party has been cancelled. [1]
(vi) This is the first time I have seen so many people in this building. [1]
(vii) We will be seen by the rescuers, if we light the fire. [1]
(viii) Most of the books were taken from the shelf when we left. [1]

