

MT EDUCARE LTD.

ICSE X

SUBJECT : **ENGLISH PAPER I**

BOARD PAPER - 2014

ANSWERSHEET

Answers 1.

- (a) Tired of the blatant accusations made against him, Milind finally shouted out loud, "It's not my fault, I can't do it as hard as I try". Saying that, he left the room in angst. Tired, frustrated and depressed, Milind just wanted to commit suicide because of the kind of demoralizing things said to him from time to time by his parents, teachers and siblings.

"Was it my fault?" he always wondered. His teachers yelled at him saying, "How difficult is it to understand the difference between 8 and B?" You could not blame Milind either, since he was only a ten year old boy who loved to play, have fun with his friends, had an immense interest in art but fared miserably when it came to academics. Some said that he wasn't meant for studies, while some said that he isn't focussed enough. Some said that he devotes all his energy in playing outside and has very little of it left when it came to sitting down with his books. His parents had to bear the brunt of his shortcomings in academics and had to listen to various taunts from relatives and neighbours alike.

Once at school, Milind was caught fighting with a boy of his age over a petty issue. As was always the case, Milind's teacher decided to call his parents and take the issue up with the principal. The principal, tired of calling his parents to school and explaining the same thing over and over again to his parents, this time decided to do things a little different. He decided that he himself would go to Milind's house this time around and see his parents. He believed that it was Milind's work ethics that caused all the problem, be it low grades or his excessively mischievous behaviour. He decided to check the room that Milind studied in, and also how his parents trained him to gear up for the exams.

On reaching Milind's house, the principal, Mr. Ranjan, insisted on seeing Milind's room, the place where he studied and perhaps spent most of his time. He saw a lot of paintings of abstract things, fearless paint-brush strokes that showed colours rather vividly and vibrantly. He immediately walked out of the room and concluded that Milind's excessive love for painting was the primary reason for him not being able to concentrate on his studies. "Take that paint box away from him for God's sake and keep him in the constant company for books if results are to be produced. You might also consider hiring a professional for his notorious behaviour", said the principal and left at once.

As expected, Milind's dad yelled at him and slapped him a number of times, while his mother broke down in an instant. Milind, left the

room at once with the words, "It's not my fault, I can't do it as hard as I try". Saying that, he left the room in angst. That left his parents unsettled because this wasn't Milind's usual behaviour, and he would usually cry and go to his room. This time he left the house and his frustration at the whole situation was apparently visible on his crest-fallen face.

Who could explain to the accusers that Dyslexia knew no alphabets? Who could explain that Dyslexia was a disorder that needed attention and care, and not accusations and scolding? Alas! It is time that people broaden their horizons and learn more about this grave problem why not accept people the way they are, why not treat them as they truly deserve.

After all, all humans are God's masterpiece. When we demean the masterpiece we demean the painter (Creator – God)

[25]

(b) "Working women make better mothers than women who stay at home."

Women have been blessed, or rather cursed and have to bear the responsibility of the house. In India, it is often understood that the women needs to take care of the house, while the man of the house goes and earns the daily bread for the household. Women have rose up in rebellion to that for years with some success, and the result has given them the freedom to work but the earlier responsibility of the house and kids still vests with her, because it is below a man's dignity to do household chores. And in all the fray and frenzy, we often also forget that a woman has the prime duty, and that is to take care of the child who needs attention and care for the overall development.

I have been bought up by a mother who has given me the much needed attention and care, helped me immensely with my studies and also worked for all of my childhood years, and continues to do so. And the kind of work that she has done to make me reach where I am today, might well decide whether I am in favour or against the above statement.

Women who stay home are able to monitor and gauge various aspects of her child constantly. She is endowed with the responsibilities of the house as well as the child, a task thought by many to not be too difficult. So, while the child goes to school, the mother in the house can prepare nutritious food for the child and the family, and when the child returns from school, she can help her/him with studies. A perfect combination, one would say.

But to think of it, where does that leave a woman's aspirations? Did the woman, as a young girl, envision a life of a housewife for herself in the future? Maybe she wanted to be an astronaut, enter politics, or be a bank manager but she gave it all up to be a 'housewife'. Was it worth it? From a woman's standpoint, definitely not.

On the contrary, women who work, follow their aspirations, work for the house, earn a fair share of the household bread, take care of the family, take care of the child and ensures that the child has an

overall growth and development in all spheres. Though she may not be at home all the time, but that definitely ensures that the child gets the much required independence from constantly having a parent at home and makes the child more responsible. And then, the mother cooks for the house and takes care of the child's education in the remaining time.

Yes, a working woman is a juggler, hustler, follows her dreams and ambitions and goes on to show the world that she won't back down from any challenge thrown at her. She follows her ambition and I don't know of any child who has gone awry because her/his mother was busy working somewhere. She handles all that efficiently and commands a lot more respect from the world.

So, yes, a woman staying at home can give all her attention and care to the child in the formative years, but women who work ensures that the child gets independence and becomes responsible, and learns the valuable lessons of life, all by herself/himself. And that according to me is priceless and valuable as the child grows up and makes the working woman a better choice overall.

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(c) An early morning walk through your city in winter.

The weighing scale showed 100 kilograms, and it was about time to hit the ground running, quite literally. Gymnasiums didn't help, nor did doing power Yoga in a dingy room. Somebody suggested that morning walks help immensely in reducing the piled up weight, and I thought that breathing in a little fresh air amidst the polluted environment of Mumbai, would do no harm. And like an inspired individual, I headed up with my track suit, bottle of water and a towel, determined to lose weight and breathe in a bit of Mumbai, unpolluted.

Aarey colony in Goregaon is a famous jogging spot, where a lot of people hit the road to enjoy the morning view and the greenery. The smell of the green trees and fresh air obviously helped from my spirit being dampened to exercise. The greenery around is almost intoxicating and you feel away from the noise and frenzy of the metropolis. It seemed a different world, where time seemed to stop for me, and seeing other people jog and give it their all to keep fit, filled me with the much needed enthusiasm as well.

There was a hoard of people who came to Aarey for their morning walks. While some came there for brisk-walks, some of them were there to catch on the latest gossip with their friends in a track suit. Some cycled to lose weight, while some played cricket to keep fit. Some relied on the herbal juices that a man sold in the vicinity to remain healthy, while there were couples who believed in knocking their weight off together.

The environment was cheerful and I had my earphones plugged in listening to my favourite songs that added as a motivation for an over-weight exerciser. But the surroundings were so serene that I removed my earphones at once to enjoy the quietness and the chirping of the birds. I was in Mumbai but there was no honking of vehicles,

nor was there the polluting smoke. And it was certainly a welcome change.

I saw a few old people laughing their hearts out, that someone told me later was a laughter club where people laughed without any reason to relieve the stress. There were also a few who meditated and did Yoga. And it made me wonder on the amount of richness I was missing out on, in the pursuit of money. I sat down with them and they taught me a few Yoga asanas that made me feel calmer throughout the day.

I came back home with a renewed spirit to go experience mornings in Mumbai, and now my intention was not to lose weight, but to enjoy the other side of Mumbai. A much needed change from the cramped up, artificial gymnasiums that made me feel suffocated. Maybe it was nature's way of showing me that all you need to do is breathe in some fresh air, walk briskly, enjoy the greenery, sip on the natural juices and get closer to nature to lose weight, but more importantly it was necessary to laugh and be stress-free. My wife asked me if I would be going tomorrow for my morning walk. My smile as soon as I heard the words 'morning walk', was enough to let her know the answer.

[25]

(d) An embarrassing situation.

Horror movies are always exciting and fun to watch. They are scary, and what is more fun is to see people react scarily to the scary scenes. I have watched a lot of horror movies, and although I was initially scared of them, in time I have got quite accustomed to the scary scenes and the plot.

Around a year back, the movie *Conjuring* was released and it was tipped to be really scary because it was based on a real life incident. I was stoked and wanted to watch it the moment it released. I asked my friends to accompany me for the movie. They were initially reluctant but later they agreed. My excitement doubled when we came to know that the movie would also release in 3d.

Pooja, Rekha and Arati were to accompany me, and we were a bunch of girls from college who thought of themselves as brave and fearless. We almost got to the point of being cocky, decided that we would poke fun at people who were at the theatre and who would get scared at the scary scenes. We were definitely sure that, come what may, nothing could scare us. So what if it was a real life story, we were seasoned campaigners.

We reached the theatre well in advance and were excited about the movie. There were many people who were there and we thought that we wouldn't get affected at all by the scary scenes. We decided of ways to scare the other spectators more by making scary noises and throwing popcorn at them, while the movie would be on. We purchased popcorn before the show started and got ourselves comfortably seated. We knew one thing for sure, it doesn't matter if the movie is scary or not, we were going to scare people around us by howling and shouting. The show started and nothing seemed scary to us, and everything seemed like just another horror movie. The theatre was full and we

were excited to execute our devilish plan. But then the scary scenes started and it began to put us off our game. We hadn't seen anything like that before and the shouting and growling of the ghosts, coupled with the subtle but scary scenes, gave us goose bumps. We felt chills down our spines when the protagonist could see a reflection of the ghost in the mirror behind her staring down on her. Because it was a 3d movie, everything appeared closer and more real, as if happening around us and that made the whole experience scarier.

During the final scene of the exorcism, which was nothing like usual, we threw our popcorn in total fright. We shouted and yelled because the scenes were actually very scary. And by the time the movie ended, we were almost in tears with the barrage of scary scenes which were thrown at us for a couple of hours. We were so scared, that an old couple sitting beside us had to calm us down, in order to stop us from crying. What added insult to injury was, when the old man next to us told us that he had heard us planning to scare others and it was very funny that we ourselves got scared ! He laughed his way out of the theatre with his wife. Boy! Was it embarrassing. But none the less, we learnt a very valuable lesson that being cocky and arrogant never helps, and the real monsters are the ones within us and not what we see on screen.

[25]

(e) Picture Composition

As soon as one sees this picture, one is sent through an emotional roller coaster, and feels ashamed of being part of a society that offers such disparity between people. The picture essentially shows a girl who is perhaps sitting with a bottle of water and has debris all around her.

What a sad state of affairs. This could be the scene of any country, be it Iraq, or India. But it more so, seems like a country that has been affected by wars. Everything around the girl is shattered and it seems as though she has no one that she can call her own. The girl is obviously very sad about the kind of condition that she is in, but there is little she can do to help her cause.

The photo is also reminiscent of any construction site that one may find in India that brings us to the problem of poverty yet again. Also more glaring is the fact that she is a young girl aged 5-6 years but does not obviously have the means to get any kind of education. She might have perhaps accompanied her mother who works at the construction site, and the vicious circle of poverty is soon going to render her uneducated and absorb her into her parent's occupation. Worse still, she could be abducted and could become a victim of human trafficking, or be forced to beg on the streets of any city.

This is a very disturbing picture which shows the extreme end of life. It shows us how we could live in air-conditioned rooms, with amenities that more than suffice our needs and comment on a girl who is struggling every day to have her basic needs met. While at parties, we might lament on the sad condition of the Indian economy and talk about the ever widening gap between the haves and have nots, we are as much a contributing factor to it if not more. We are at least,

not doing anything to help the cause.

This calls for action from both the Government and from us. To stop wars, to give an equal opportunity to the downtrodden to not fall into the vicious circle of poverty and never to see a person so dejected with life as the girl in the picture. This also calls on to our economists to question their policies and not let such disparities exist in the society. It is too much to ask for and change will certainly not happen at a brisk pace. It is tough to make progress and end all divides between rich and poor in a day, but it is tougher to see such a girl, without education, employment, staring down on the world the way she does.

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Answers 2.

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

Dearest Raj uncle,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and hope aunty is doing fine too. First and foremost, let me thank you with all my heart for giving me a gift of Rs. 1000. It means a lot to me, and I write today to tell you about how I intend to spend it.

I have been given many gifts in the past, Raj uncle, but this is the first time that someone has given me money as gift. I understand that I am growing old and it is about time I learn how to handle money and use it. For me, 1000 Rs is a big amount, and I am going to be judicious while spending it. Mom has always taught me the importance of saving money, and the first thing I'd do is, save Rs. 300 for the future. That is going to be my first savings and I wish to save a lot more in the future.

Second, I have always wished to have a cricket bat for myself since I play cricket for my school and was in need of a new bat since quite some time now. I have made enquiries for the same, and my favourite Gunn and Moore bat is going to cost me 600 Rs. It gives me a sense of pride that I would be utilizing my own money to buy equipment's for myself. Dad would be proud too, seeing me invest and buy things for myself without having to ask money from him.

That leaves me with Rs. 100 and I intend to give it to an orphanage in my area. I know Rs. 100 isn't a lot of money in this day and age, but even if one child could eat a good meal out of the small amount I donate, I'd be pleased. I hope I have spent and saved my money wisely, and I hope I'm in the right track as far as things with money are concerned.

I will visit you and aunty in April, as my exams end in April and my summer vacations commence. I will send you the details regarding my train timings and my arriving date to Lucknow. Give my regards to aunty and love to Rahul.

Lots of love
Yours lovingly,

Rohan.

[10]

(b) Children's Academy,
Ashok Nagar
Kandivali (West)
Mumbai- 400064.

3rd September, 2014.

The Principal,
Paradigm School,
Mumbai-400064.

Subject: Invitation to your school for Earth Day Celebration at our school.

Respected Sir,

I, Yash Shah, am the President of the Nature Club of Children's Academy school, at Kandivali (West). We intend to celebrate Earth Day on 15th September, 2014 in our school premises and would like to invite you as well as your students to grace the occasion and be a part of the celebrations.

Me, my fellow students and our teachers have decided to celebrate this day in our school to make people aware of the growing danger to our beloved planet, Earth. We all know the problem of pollution and various environmental issues that we are faced with today. It is with keeping in mind this problem that our teachers have decided to put up a drama that shows us these problems in an eye-opening manner. We have also organised an inter school quiz competition and an elocution competition. In addition, there will also be many games and interactive sessions focussing our attention to the problem of climate change and various perils of our reckless use of resources. We will also have banners and charts put up on the day of the programme which will focus on the alternative source of energies that can be used, which do not cause problems to the environment.

It would be a pleasure to have you and your esteemed teachers, and students visit our school for this wonderful cause and occasion. It would also serve as a great platform for students to interact with one another and come up with various solutions to the problems faced by our planet. I would request you to inform us in advance of the students who would like to take part in the aforesaid competitions.

Yours truly,

Yash Shah,
President, Nature Club, Children's Academy.

[10]

Answer 3.

- (a) (i) Dead body [1]
(ii) Satisfy [1]
(iii) To move back [1]
- (b) (i) The panther has terrorized the entire Khulna district of Bangladesh, which was just outside the Sundarbans. It had recently killed its seventh prey, a little girl, by carrying her off into the forest. It also killed a man in broad daylight later, which meant that the attacks by the panther had become too frequent for the villagers to control. So, the author says that the panther 'was getting bolder'. [2]
- (ii) The Forest Department had hired a professional hunter because it was becoming difficult for the villagers to stay in the village. The panther had killed many residents of the Khulna village, and despite many attempts to curb the menace of the panther by the villagers, it only grew bolder. It had recently killed a little girl and a man, which meant that the situation was beyond the control of the villagers and had to be handed over to professionals. [2]
- (iii) The hunter expected that he would encounter an old, wasted male panther with worn teeth, who could not catch anything more than a human. What the hunter actually encountered, was a sleek female tiger with her cub, who was perhaps both hungry and thirsty, and once she quenched her thirst, she killed her prey, a goat, to satisfy her hunger. [2]
- (iv) Of hunger and thirst, thirst is always considered a greater urge. So, the tiger first quenched her thirst near the edge of the water, and then proceeded to eat the goat, which was her prey for the night. [2]
- (v) The real man eater was the panther but the hunter had encountered a tiger and her cub instead. A tiger, too is a dangerous animal, and having a carnivore so close to human habitation would pose a threat to the inhabitants of the village, especially because she had a cub to look after. So, the hunter decided to shoot the tiger in spite of knowing that it wasn't the man eater. [2]
- (vi) The name of the hunter was Richard Parker. When he first saw the tiger, it was with her cub, thirsty. When the hunter made the tiger unconscious, he named it Thirsty, remembering how thirsty it was when he first saw it. But the shipping clerk at the Howrah train station confused the hunter's name for the tiger, and called it Richard Parker. [2]
- (c) (i) The hunter fired with the gun with darts which knocked the creature down without warning. They found the tiger two hundred yards from the river. She was conscious, but her legs and balance were shaky. When they got close, she tried to get away, turned on them and lifted a paw that was meant to kill but she collapsed. [8]

- (ii) 'Hunting down the tiger' would be an apt title for the summary since it describes how the hunter tried to knock the tiger down. [2]

Answer 4.

- (a) (0) see [½]
(1) told [½]
(2) argued [½]
(3) was [½]
(4) disappear [½]
(5) looked [½]
(6) missing [½]
(7) done [½]
(8) ran [½]
- (b) (i) for [½]
(ii) between [½]
(iii) since, from [½]
(iv) of [½]
(v) for [½]
(vi) over [½]
(vii) down [½]
(viii) off [½]
- (c) (i) Although he is good at gymnastics, his handwriting must improve. [1]
(ii) Her grandfather gifted her a paint box since he knew she was good at art. [1]
(iii) Ravi fractured his arm, yet he insisted on playing the match. [1]
(iv) Mona has been ill for a month, yet she stood first in the examination. [1]
- (d) (i) No sooner did we light the candle, than the power supply was restored. [1]
(ii) The bee is the most industrious of all creatures. [1]
(iii) The old woman was so old that she could not catch the bus. [1]
(iv) He promised that he would do it the next day. [1]
(v) In spite of getting an expensive gift, Reema was not happy. [1]
(vi) I would rather read a book than watch a movie. [1]
(vii) Never has Mr. Roy lost his temper. [1]
(viii) The keys were found in the garage by her. [1]