

**HS 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR**  
**Pre-Final Examination, 2024**  
**ENGLISH**

Full marks: 100

Time 3 hours

**SECTION A**

*(Reading skill: 10 Marks)*

**1. Read the following passage carefully:**

People travelling long distances frequently have to decide whether they would prefer to go by land, sea or air. Hardly anyone can positively enjoy sitting in a train for more than a few hours. Train compartments soon get cramped and stuffy. It is almost impossible to take your mind off the journey. Reading is only a partial solution, for the monotonous rhythm of the wheels clicking on the rails soon lulls you to sleep. During the day, sleep comes in snatches. At night when you really wish to go to sleep, you rarely manage to do so. If you are lucky enough to get a couchette, you spend half the night staring at the small blue light in the ceiling, or fumbling to find your passport when you cross a frontier. Inevitably you arrive at your destination almost exhausted.

Long car journeys are even less pleasant, for it is quite impossible even to read. On motor-ways you can at least travel fairly safely at high speeds, but more often than not, the greater part of the journey is spent on narrow bumpy roads which are crowded with traffic. By comparison, trips by sea offer a great variety of civilized comforts. You can stretch your legs on the spacious decks, play games, swim, meet interesting people and enjoy good food -always assuming, of course, that the sea is calm. If it is not, and you are likely to get sea-sick, no form of transport could be worse. Even if you travel in ideal weather, sea-journeys take a long time. Relatively few people are prepared to sacrifice up to a third of their holidays for the pleasure of travelling on a ship.

Acoplanes have the reputation of being dangerous and even hardened travellers are intimidated by them. They also have the grave disadvantage of being the most expensive form of transport. But nothing can match them for speed and comfort. Travelling at a height of 30,000 feet, far above the clouds, and at over 500 miles an hour is an exhilarating experience. You do not have to devise ways of taking your mind off the journey, for an aeroplane gets you to your destination rapidly. For a few hours, you settle back in a deep armchair to enjoy the flight. The real escapist can watch a free film show and sip a hot or cold drink on some services. But even when such refreshments are not available, there is plenty to keep you occupied. An aeroplane offers you an unusual breath-taking view of the world. You soar effortlessly over high mountains and deep valleys. You really see the shape of the land. If the landscape is hidden from view, you can enjoy the extraordinary sight of unbroken clouds, plains that stretch out for miles before you while the sun shines brilliantly in a clear sky. The journey is so smooth that there is nothing to prevent you from reading or sleeping. However, you decide to spend your time, one thing is certain; you will arrive at your destination fresh and uncrumpled. You will not have to spend the next few days recovering from a long and arduous journey

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (a) Write two advantages of travelling by air.                           | 2 |
| (b) What are the two disadvantages of travelling by sea?                 | 2 |
| (c) What are the problems faced by the speaker when travelling by train? | 2 |
| (d) What kind of views can be enjoyed while travelling in an aeroplane?  | 2 |
| (e) Give an antonym of "narrow".   | 1 |
| (f) Find a word in the passage that means 'a person that avoids reality' | 1 |

**SECTION-B**

*(Advanced writing skills: 25 marks)*

2. Design a poster in not more than 50 words to create awareness about woman safety

5

*Or*

You are Rohan/Rashmi, Secretary of the Students 'Union of your college. Your college is organizing an "Inter-College Debate Competition" in the next month' Write a notice for the college notice board giving all the details of the event. (Word Limit: 50 words)

5

3. Your state government have launched a scheme of providing scooters for the students securing first division. You are Ranjit/Ranjita, a reporter of 'the Assam Tribune'. Write a report in 100-125 words on how this scheme can motivate the students.

10

*Or*

Your school has recently celebrated Teachers' Day. Prepare a report on that event in 100-125 words to be published in your school magazine.

10

4. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Sentinel' drawing the attention of the authorities towards the problem of frequent load shedding in your area.

10

*Or*

You are Abhishek/ Aishwarya. You have seen an advertisement in a newspaper for a post of a School Teacher in Don Bosco School, Guwahati. Write an application, along with your detailed resume to the Principal in response to the advertisement applying for the post.

10

### SECTION-C

*(Grammar: 20 Marks)*

5. Change the form of the narration in the following sentences: (any two)

2x2=4

(a) I asked my friend why he looked so sad. He replied that his father was seriously ill and there was little hope for his recovery.

(b) The teacher said to his student, "Have you prepared the lesson?" The boy said. "Excuse me Sir, I have not."

(c) I asked Priyam what she was doing. Priyam replied that she was preparing her lessons.

(d) I said to him, "How long will you stay?" He replied, "For five days."

6. Change the voice of any three of the following sentences.

1x3=3

(a) I was surprised at the news.

(b) She handed me the letter.

(c) Your sister is well known to my mother.

(d) What is an earthquake caused by?

(e) Whom did you laugh at?

(f) Shut the window.

7. Rewrite any five of the following sentences using the verbs given in brackets in their correct tense forms:

1x5=5

(a) I (go) to Delhi tomorrow.

(b) I (write) an essay now.

(c) I wish I (be) a bird.

(d) Your letter (reach) me yesterday.

(e) She (visit) Europe next year.

(f) He (study) English for four years now.



- (g) I asked her if she (see) him before.
- (h) I (hope) that I will secure some good marks.
- (i) I spent hours (study) for the exams.

8. Rewrite any four of the following sentences filling in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

1x4=4

- (a) Our school is \_\_\_\_ Chandmari.
- (b) My Birthday is \_\_\_\_ 24 August.
- (c) I congratulate you \_\_\_\_ your success.
- (d) He is fond \_\_\_\_ you.
- (e) What is the time \_\_\_\_ your watch now?
- (f) There was a bridge \_\_\_\_ the river.
- (g) He begged \_\_\_\_ help.
- (h) Cut the rope \_\_\_\_ a knife.

9. Rewrite any four of the following sentences as directed:

1x4=4

- (a) Kindly do me a favour. (Add a question tag)
- (b) He likes to read books. (Turn into a negative interrogative sentence)
- (c) He has enough money. (Turn into negative)
- (d) He is weak. He cannot work. (Combine into one sentence)
- (e) He worked hard to pass the examination. (Make it a complex sentence)
- (f) Is this the kind of dress to wear in school? (Make it an assertive sentence)
- (g) Atul is the best boy in the class. (Change it into positive degree)

#### SECTION-D

(Textbook: 45 Marks)

10. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follows:

- (a) Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
 Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
 Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
 From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,  
 Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon

Questions:

- (i) What provides with a shady boon? 1
- (ii) What binds us to the earth? 1
- (iii) Write the antonym of 'boon'. 1

Or

- (b) " Those who prepare green wars  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing."

Questions:

- (i) Write the synonym of 'win'. 1  
(ii) What do the warmongers do? 1  
(iii) What are the different types of wars mentioned in the poem? 2

11. Answer any three of the following questions in 30-40 words:

2x3=6

- (i) What childhood fear did Kamala Das refer to in her poem? How did she hide it?  
(ii) Why is the longing of the people of the roadside stand called childish?  
(iii) Why would keeping quiet be an exotic moment?  
(iv) What are the things of beauty mentioned in the poem?  
(v) Why do the people who are running the roadside stand ask for some city money?  
(vi) What does the parting word of the poet and her smile signify?  
(vi) What causes sufferings and pain?

12. Answer any five of the following questions:

1x5=5

- (a) What did M Hamel teach on his last day?  
(b) Whom did Gandhi wanted to meet in Patna and with whom?  
(c) Who was John Rowntree?  
(d) Why did M Hamel dressed differently that day?  
(e) Whose autograph did Sophie wanted to get?  
(f) What did the peasants pay the British as rent?  
(g) How did Sahib felt about his job at the tea stall?  
(h) What kind of person was Geoff?

13. Answer any five in 30-40 words.

2x5=10

- (a) "The battle of Champaran is won." Explain.  
(b) How did M Hamel dressed on his last day?  
(c) Where was "Viva la France" written and what does it mean?  
(d) Why did Jansie feel sad hearing about Sophie's dream?  
(e) What animals did the author discover in the Peacock Island?  
(f) How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers?

(g) What did Franz do on his way to school?

(h) Describe the bangle makers of Firozabad.

**14. Answer any one of the following questions in 80-100 words:**

5x1=5

(a) Describe the social situation during the last day of M Hamel.

(b) How does the vicious circle of the Sahukars, the middlemen never allow the bangle makers to come out of their poverty?

**15. Answer any one of the following questions in 125-150 words:**

7x1=7

(a) Write the character sketch of Dr. Sadao.

(b) Elaborate the celebrations of Magh Bihu.

**16. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words:**

2x4=8

(a) What were the different names that were given to the Tiger King?

(b) Describe the appearance of the American Soldier?

(c) How did the Tiger King Die?

(d) How did Derry enter Mr. Lamb's garden?

(e) What is a Bhelaghor?

(f) Why was Zitkala Sa terrified?

(g) Why was Sadao and Hana in a dilemma?

(h) Who is Derry?

\*\*\*\*\*X\*\*\*\*\*