

ISC SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
ENGLISH PAPER 1
(LANGUAGE)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: One and a half hours

(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.)

ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY

The marks intended for questions are given in brackets [].

Select the correct option for each of the following questions.

Question 1

Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

I heard the main door creak open directly above our heads.

My first natural **impulse** was to shout, to get help from whoever had come: and then I remembered. Harry had come to this place to meet someone. He didn't know who. He'd gone there trustingly. He'd walked into the boathouse and tried to pick up an envelope and the floor had given way beneath him; and if I hadn't been there with him he would certainly have drowned in the dock.

With doubt but also **awareness** of danger I guessed at an enemy above our heads, not a saviour.

There was silence. Then the creak of a step or two, then the sound of the door being quietly closed. I heard a car door slamming and after that the noise of an engine starting up and being driven away.

No easy exit. The door was solid as a rock. On the wall beside the door, there was a row of three electric switches. I pressed them all without any results from the electric light bulbs along the ceiling. There was also a control box with cables leading to the top of a metal curtain at the level of the river. The arrangement for raising the curtain was a gear designed to turn a rod to wind the metal mesh-up onto it like a blind. Without electricity, however, it wasn't going to **oblige**.

'Harry?' I called. 'Sit there and don't worry. I'll come back.'

I slipped into the water and swam a couple of strokes to the curtain. Tried standing up, but the water was much deeper there. Hung onto the wire feeling the tug of the current from the river.

With extreme luck, the curtain wouldn't go all the way down to the river's bed. There must be a gap of at least two or three feet. I took a breath and pulled myself hand over hand down the curtain, seeking to find the bottom of it with my feet: and there was indeed a gap between the bottom edge of the curtain and the mud.

Deep breath. Dived. Came to the end of the wire, felt the mud below. The bottom edge of the curtain was a matter of free links, not a connecting bar. The links could be raised, but only singly, not altogether. I swung down at the bottom, deciding to go head first... praying that the links wouldn't catch on my clothes... head under, push the links up with hands, full strength, take care, don't rush, don't snag clothes, hold onto the wire outside, don't let go, hang on, shoulders through, raise the links, back through, legs... short of breath... lungs hurting... careful, careful... unknown things around my ankles, hampering... had to breathe soon... feet catching... feet... through.

I was through. I came up into the air gasping deeply, panting, aching lungs swelling, feeling a rush of suppressed **terror**, clinging onto the curtain in a shaky state.

'Harry?' I called.

'Oh John...' His relief was beyond measure. 'Thank God.'

'Not long now,' I said and heard the **strain** in my own voice too.

I edged along with the curtain in the direction of the shut door and managed to scramble around the boathouse wall and up out of the water to roll at last onto the grassy bank. Bitterly cold, shivering violently from several causes, but out.

Adapted from *Longshot* by Dick Francis

(a)

(i) Given below are five words from the passage along with four options for each. Choose the option which has a similar meaning in the passage: [5]

1. **Impulse**

- (a) vibration
- (b) a sudden strong wish
- (c) whimsical
- (d) motive

2. Awareness

- (a) knowledge
- (b) not knowing
- (c) goods on sale
- (d) conscience

3. Terror

- (a) fight
- (b) foreboding
- (c) uncanny
- (d) extreme fear

4. Strain

- (a) trouble
- (b) tiresome
- (c) anxiety
- (d) tight

5. Oblige

- (a) be of any help
- (b) bow down
- (c) beholden
- (d) indebted

(ii) With each of the five words given below, choose the correct sentence that uses the word in a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage. [5]

1. Meet

- (a) The Inter-House Athletic meet of XYZ School had to be postponed due to heavy rains.
- (b) The two friends had promised to meet at the same spot twenty years later.
- (c) Some children find it difficult to meet up to the expectations of their parents.
- (d) After his rude behaviour, it is meet for him to apologise to his father.

2. Gear

- (a) The contestants had to gear up for their performances by 6 o'clock in the evening.
- (b) The trekker carried his camping gear along with other necessary items.
- (c) The car went out of control and crashed because its gear systems collapsed.
- (d) The gearbox broke down and the van came to a standstill.

3. Blind

- (a) The little girl helped the blind beggar to cross the busy road.
- (b) Mother pulled the blind to keep out the sunlight from the room.
- (c) Instead of curtains, the Venetian blind looks more appropriate in the office.
- (d) She has a blind spot where classical music is concerned.

4. State

- (a) The State Electricity Board is responsible for supplying electric current in the whole state.
- (b) The teacher told the student to state everything in detail in front of the examiner.
- (c) I was not in the right state of mind to go to the party.
- (d) In its frozen state water becomes ice.

5. Bank

- (a) I had to go to the State Bank of India last week to deposit the money.
- (b) Standing on the riverbank I watched the star-studded sky.
- (c) Shirley is a friend who I can bank on.
- (d) There is a question bank where one can store various types of questions.

(b) Choose the correct option for the questions given below:

[10]

1. What made the narrator think that someone had come?
 - (a) The narrator saw someone entering.
 - (b) The narrator heard the footsteps of an intruder.
 - (c) The narrator heard the main door open directly above their heads.
 - (d) The narrator heard the main door shut directly above their heads.

2. Harry had gone to meet someone in the boathouse.
 - (a) unwisely
 - (b) trustingly
 - (c) foolishly
 - (d) mistakenly

3. Why did the narrator assume that the intruder was an enemy?
 - (a) He had tricked Harry into the boathouse and tried to drown him.
 - (b) He had tried to kill Harry.
 - (c) He heard the car driving away.
 - (d) All of the above.

4. Why was there no easy way out of the boathouse?
 - (a) The door was too high and it was locked.
 - (b) The door was solid as a rock and there was no electricity.
 - (c) There was no electricity so nothing was working.
 - (d) It was difficult to reach the door.

5. Why do you think it was not possible to raise the curtain?
 - (a) The metal mesh was far too rusted for it to move.
 - (b) The narrator could not operate the gear.
 - (c) The gear designed to wind the metal mesh wouldn't work without electricity.
 - (d) The curtain was too heavy for the narrator to handle.

6. What did the narrator feel while he was underwater?
 - (a) The narrator prayed and tried to remain calm so that he did not make any mistakes.
 - (b) The narrator lost his nerves and almost gave up trying.
 - (c) The narrator felt at a loss, he did not see any hope of saving his friend, Harry.
 - (d) The narrator was so tense that he could not speak.

7. What was his reaction when he came out of the water?
 - (a) He was very tired and exhausted and couldn't breathe.
 - (b) He was relieved to hear his friend's voice.
 - (c) He was feeling bitterly cold.
 - (d) He was shivering violently from several causes.

8. How did Harry feel about being rescued?
 - (a) He was relieved and happy.
 - (b) He was too frightened to express himself.
 - (c) He was very quiet and scared.
 - (d) He did not speak a word and that frightened John.

9. How had Harry been trapped in the boathouse?
 - (a) He had walked into the boathouse and tried to pick up an envelope when the floor gave way and he fell through.
 - (b) He was hit in the head and locked inside.
 - (c) He had been pushed from the back into the water.
 - (d) He slipped and fell into the water.

10. Arrange the sequence of events as they occur in the passage.

- (i) The narrator dived into the water to reach the end of the curtain.
 - (ii) He swam a couple of strokes.
 - (iii) He swung down at the bottom
 - (iv) He tried standing up hanging on to the wire.
- (a) (iii), (i), (iv), (ii)
 - (b) (ii), (iv), (i), (iii)
 - (c) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
 - (d) (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)

Question 2

Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

A long time ago, it had caused a terrible scandal in noble Lorraine. A young girl, beautiful and rich, Suzanne de Sirmont, had been carried off by a sergeant in the regiment that her father commanded. He was a handsome boy, the son of peasants, but looking good in his dress uniform, this soldier who had seduced the daughter of his colonel. No doubt she had seen him, noticed him, fell in love with him while watching the troops march by. But how had he spoken to her, how had they been able to see each other, to talk? How had she dared to make him understand that she loved him? No one ever knew.

No one suspected anything. One night, as the soldier had just finished his enlistment, he disappeared with her. They sought for them, but never found them. They never heard from her again, and they considered her dead.

And I had found her in that **sinister** valley.

Then I said, in my turn, “Yes, I remember well. You are Suzanne.”

She shook her head yes. Tears fell from her eyes. Then, with a glance at the old man sitting immobile on the doorstep of the **shack**, she told me, “It’s him.”

And I understood that she still loved him, that she still saw him with seduced eyes.

I asked, “Have you been happy, at least?”

She answered, with a voice that came from the heart, “Oh! Yes, very happy. He has made me very happy. I have never regretted anything.”

I contemplated her, sad, surprised, amazed by the power of love! This rich girl had followed this man, this peasant. She had herself become a peasant. She had lived her life without charms, without luxuries, without delicacies of any sort; she had bent herself to his simple habits. And she loved him *still*. She had become **rustic**, in a bonnet and canvas skirt. She ate on an earthenware plate on a crude wooden table, sitting on a cane seat, a gruel of cabbage and potatoes with lard. She lay on a straw mattress by his side.

She had never thought of anything, but him! She had missed neither necklaces, nor fineries, nor elegances, nor soft seats, nor the perfumed warmth of rooms enveloped in curtains, nor the sweetness of **downy** cushions on which to *rest* one's *body*. She had never needed anything but him; as long as he was there, she desired nothing.

She had abandoned life while young, both the world and those who had raised her and loved her. She had come, along with him, to this wild **ravine**. And he had been everything for her, everything one desires, everything one dreams of, everything one constantly waits for, everything one endlessly hopes. He had filled her existence with happiness, from one end to the other. She couldn't have been happier.

And all night, listening to the rough breathing of the old soldier stretched out on his pallet, beside her who had followed him so far, I thought of that strange and simple adventure, of this happiness so complete, made of so little.

And I left with the rising sun, after having shaken hands with the two old people, man and wife.”
(519 words)

(a)

(i) Given below are five words from the passage along with four options for each word. Choose the option which has a similar meaning in the passage: [5]

1. sinister

- (a) sinful
- (b) ominous
- (c) sincere
- (d) scenic

2. shack

- (a) palace
- (b) bar
- (c) hut
- (d) club

3. rustic

- (a) simple
- (b) sophisticated
- (c) beautiful
- (d) Happy

4. ravine

- (a) house
- (b) yacht
- (c) boat
- (d) valley

5. downy

- (a) lower
- (b) depressed
- (c) soft
- (d) huge

(ii) With each of the five words given below, choose the correct sentence that uses the word in a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage. [5]

1. Uniform

- (a) Two well-armed guards stood outside the gate, in a blue medical uniform
- (b) Ashes and dirt sullied his uniform and made him sneeze.
- (c) His uniform was trimmed with gold and braid.
- (d) The rows of houses were uniform in appearance.

2. Turn

- (a) It was her turn to do some studying.
- (b) He could not turn around as he had a stiff neck.
- (c) When it was his turn to speak, he became nervous.
- (d) She was waiting for her turn to offer the bouquet to the chief guest

3. Still

- (a) He looked back and saw the innkeeper still standing by the door.
- (b) It is still not too late to change our plans.
- (c) Still waters run deep.
- (d) Words of praise came more easily to his lips, but he still had trouble accepting praise.

4. Body

- (a) His body shook, and he flung his head back to the sky with a hoarse shout.
- (b) A legislative body should be composed of two houses.
- (c) Finding nothing, she spread the blanket and lay down, pulling part of it over her body.
- (d) His cheekbones were high, his chiselled face matching the chiselled body.

5. Rest

- (a) Why don't you sit down and rest and I'll bring you a piece of pie?
- (b) About noon they stopped to allow Jim to rest in the shade of a pretty orchard.
- (c) We had already heard the rest of the story.
- (d) Being very tired, he decided to go upstairs and rest.

(b) Choose the correct option for the questions given below: [10]

1. What makes the narrator say that no one suspected anything?
 - (a) No one was in touch with both of them
 - (b) Circumstances did not permit them to meet and interact
 - (c) The girl was too shy to express her feelings
 - (d) People were not wise enough to make out what was going on.

2. What makes the narrator understand that the lady was still in love with her husband?
 - (a) I had found her in this sinister valley.
 - (b) Have you been happy, at least?
 - (c) She shook her head. Tears fell from her eyes.
 - (d) You are Suzanne.

3. What made the narrator amazed by the power of love?
 - (a) The girl had sacrificed all luxuries.
 - (b) The man appeared to be good for nothing.
 - (c) No one had been able to find the couple.
 - (d) The girl hadn't changed her name after marriage.

4. Which of the following statements is correct?
 - (a) The narrator was also in love with Suzanne.
 - (b) The man does not love his wife anymore.
 - (c) Suzanne was troubled on seeing the narrator.
 - (d) The narrator wanted to leave as early as possible.

5. What surprised the narrator about the girl the most?
 - (a) Suzanne could love a man like the soldier.
 - (b) Suzanne had chosen this desolate island to live.
 - (c) The soldier had never wanted to return.
 - (d) Suzanne had given up a luxurious life.

6. As long as the soldier was with her, she desired.....
 - (a) Love
 - (b) Nothing
 - (c) Very little
 - (d) Food

7. What had the soldier filled Suzanne's life with?
 - (a) Love
 - (b) Jewels
 - (c) Peace
 - (d) Happiness

8. What had lasted between the couple since the beginning of their relationship?
 - (a) They still cried together over their past life.
 - (b) Suzanne still saw him with seduced eyes.
 - (c) Suzanne still wanted her husband to make peace with her parents.
 - (d) The husband still wanted Suzanne to make peace with her parents.

9. The narrator remembered Suzanne from the past.
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
 - (c) May be
 - (d) Cannot be inferred from the passage

10. Which of the following is true about Suzanne?
 - (a) She could have been happier with a little more luxury in life.
 - (b) She had a desire to leave the island when had newly reached there.
 - (c) She had abandoned life for happiness.
 - (d) She sometimes regretted her decision of choosing this man.

Question 3

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c). In each of the following items, a sentence is given. Select the most appropriate transformation of the given sentence out of the given options: [10]

(a)

1. **As soon as it starts to rain, the umbrellas go up.**
 - (a) No sooner does it starts to rain than the umbrellas go up.
 - (b) No sooner does it start to rain than umbrellas go up.
 - (c) No sooner did it started to rain than the umbrellas go up.
 - (d) No sooner does it start to rain than the umbrellas go up.

2. **Save for the old man's help, Johny would have drowned.**
 - (a) If Johny had not helped, the old man would have drowned.
 - (b) Thank God! Johny helped the old man.
 - (c) Were it not for the old man's help, Johny would have drowned.
 - (d) If the old man had helped, Johny would have drowned.

3. **My aunt said to me, "Will you be able to deliver groceries at my place?"**
 - (a) My aunt asked me that will I be able to deliver the groceries at her place.
 - (b) My aunt asked me whether I would be able to deliver the groceries at her place.
 - (c) My aunt asked me whether I would be able to deliver groceries at her place?
 - (d) My aunt asked me whether I would be able to deliver groceries at her place.

4. **No other metal is as expensive as gold.**
 - (a) Only gold is an expensive metal.
 - (b) Gold is the most expensive of all metals.
 - (c) Gold is more expensive than many other metals.
 - (d) Gold is very expensive as a metal

5. **Let him see the picture.**
 - (a) Let the picture be seen by him.
 - (b) He must see the picture.
 - (c) The picture is seen by him.
 - (d) He was allowed to see the picture.

6. **With my father's permission, I will go for an excursion.**
 - (a) If my father permits, I will not go for an excursion.
 - (b) If my father permits, I will go for an excursion.
 - (c) Unless my father permits, I will go for an excursion.
 - (d) Unless my father does not permits, I will not go for an excursion.

- 7. They had to spend a night at the platform because the train was delayed.**
- (a) If the train were delayed, they had to spend a night at the platform.
 - (b) If the train had not been delayed, they would not have had to spend a night at the platform.
 - (c) If the train is delayed, they will have to spend a night at the platform.
 - (d) If the train had been on time, they would not have to spend a night at the platform.
- 8. Walking is the healthiest exercise for the elderly.**
- (a) Walking is healthier than many other exercises for the elderly.
 - (b) Walking should be made mandatory for the elderly as an exercise.
 - (c) No other exercise for the elderly is as healthy as walking.
 - (d) Few other exercises for the elderly are as healthy as walking.
- 9. You can see the lake from here only on a clear day.**
- (a) Only the lake can be seen from here on a clear day.
 - (b) Only on a clear day, you can see the lake from here.
 - (c) Only on a clear day can you see the lake from here.
 - (d) Only if the day is clear, you cannot see the lake from here.
- 10. He regrets not taking up that job.**
- (a) He wishes to take up the job now.
 - (b) He wishes he should take the job now.
 - (c) He wished to have taken up the job.
 - (d) He wishes he had taken up that job.

(b) Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank in the given sentences: [15]

1. A mini-riot broke _____ as the chief guest arrived.
 - (a) Up
 - (b) Out
 - (c) Into
 - (d) Off

2. Sam's house was broken _____ last evening.
 - (a) Into
 - (b) Up
 - (c) Off
 - (d) Badly

3. I used to have a good job but then I was _____
 - (a) Put aside
 - (b) Laid off
 - (c) Put off
 - (d) Removed off

4. I need to _____ my phrasal verbs.
 - (a) Put on
 - (b) Work on
 - (c) Keep on
 - (d) Hold on

5. You are expected to _____ your homework if you want to escape punishment.
 - (a) Break in
 - (b) Turn in
 - (c) Check in
 - (d) Lock in

6. The police took him _____ for more questioning.
 - (a) Off
 - (b) In
 - (c) Over
 - (d) Up

7. She looks very mature so I took her _____ older than she is.
 - (a) For
 - (b) About
 - (c) Off
 - (d) In

8. The fantastic dinner more than made _____ for the poor room service.
 - (a) After
 - (b) Out
 - (c) Off
 - (d) Up

9. They ran _____ petrol on the highway.
 - (a) Round up
 - (b) Out of
 - (c) Out for
 - (d) A little

10. If you cannot come, we will have to _____ you.
- (a) Look after
 - (b) Do without
 - (c) Take on
 - (d) Go around
11. When he saw the bear, he _____ in fear.
- (a) Backed up
 - (b) Backed away
 - (c) Backed down
 - (d) Backed back
12. One of the wolves _____ from the pack.
- (a) Broke down
 - (b) Broke in
 - (c) Broke away
 - (d) Broke into
13. The game was _____ because of the bad weather.
- (a) Called over
 - (b) Called off
 - (c) Called in
 - (d) Called up
14. Our plans to go to Tokyo _____ because we could not get a visa.
- (a) Fell out
 - (b) Fell through
 - (c) Fell in
 - (d) Fell over
15. Her uncle _____ yesterday after a short illness.
- (a) Passed out
 - (b) Passed over
 - (c) Passed away
 - (d) Passed on

(c) Choose the correct option to fill in the blank in each sentence:

[15]

- (1) If I _____ you were coming, I would have come to the airport.
(a) Knew
(b) Would have known
(c) Had known
(d) Could know
- (2) Jason _____ in Moscow since he was born.
(a) Will be
(b) Has been
(c) Could be
(d) Should be
- (3) By the time I graduate from school next year, I _____ here for five years.
(a) Will be
(b) Should be
(c) Will have been
(d) Have been
- (4) My friend, Darren _____ in Amsterdam now, but he says he'll move soon.
(a) Is living
(b) Will be living
(c) Has been living
(d) Should be living
- (5) By the eighteenth century, English shipping _____ as efficient as the Dutch.
(a) Will become
(b) Has become
(c) Had become
(d) Is going to become
- (6) As usual, next year I _____ my vacation in my country house.
(a) Will spend
(b) Will have spent
(c) Have spent
(d) Am spent

- (7) We _____ in Norway for nearly 25 years until we moved to Scotland two years ago.
- (a) Were living
 - (b) Had been living
 - (c) Should have lived
 - (d) Lived
- (8) As soon as you _____ the alarm, press the button.
- (a) Will hear
 - (b) Would hear
 - (c) Hear
 - (d) Heard
- (9) This time next week I _____ to San Fransisco.
- (a) Will be flying
 - (b) Have flown
 - (c) May be flow
 - (d) Could have flown
- (10) I usually _____ after my brother when my parents go out.
- (a) Looked after
 - (b) Have look after
 - (c) Look after
 - (d) Did looked after
- (11) By the time the troops _____, the war will have ended.
- (a) Will arrive
 - (b) Arrived
 - (c) Shall arrive
 - (d) Arrive
- (12) I was not surprised to hear that Monica _____ an accident as she is a very reckless driver
- (a) Has
 - (b) Had
 - (c) Has had
 - (d) Had had

- (13) Hardly had the minister finished his speech when the earthquake _____ the stadium.
- (a) Shook
 - (b) Shaken
 - (c) Would have shaken
 - (d) Did shake
- (14) Before my trip to Paris two years ago, I _____ to France.
- (a) Have never been
 - (b) Would never have been
 - (c) Had never been
 - (d) None of the above
- (15) By this time tomorrow, he _____ at his job for a week.
- (a) Will be working
 - (b) Will work
 - (c) Will have been working
 - (d) Has been working