

**ST. THOMAS' SCHOOL, AGRA**  
**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS**  
**SAMPLE PAPER 2024-25**  
**CLASS IX**

Time: 2 hrs.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPECIMEN PAPER

MM: 80 Marks

Name: ..... Section: ..... Roll No.: .....

**Instructions:**

- Attempt **ALL FIVE** questions in the paper.
- You are advised to spend at most 30 min. for answering Q1. and 20 min. for answering Q2.

**Question I. Write a composition on ANY ONE of the topics given below. [20]**

- i. Write a Story with the help of the following outline. Give it a suitable title also.  
*"Bunya was a foolish boy, who was an attention seeker. He was a woodcutter and would go deep into the jungle to cut trees. One day he wanted to do an act of mischief. He shouted at the top of his voice, "There's a tiger, tiger, there's a tiger..."*
- ii. Write a Narrative Essay on the topic "An embarrassing experience"
- iii. Debate for or against the topic "Death penalty should be abolished"
- iv. Write a Descriptive Essay on the topic "My favourite school teacher"
- v. Study the picture given above. 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 you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



**Question II. Select ANY ONE of the following topics to write (in approx. 150 words) [10]**

- i. Write an informal letter to your best friend sharing your experience attending a recent music concert, highlighting the impact it had on your emotions and why you think such cultural events are essential for personal growth.
- ii. Write a formal letter to the Municipal Commissioner complaining about the inadequate street lighting in your locality and requesting immediate action to address the issue.

**Question III. Write BOTH of the following topics [10]**

- i. Write a notice, as the Leader of your school's Science Club, inviting students to participate in the upcoming science exhibition. Come up with the details of the same on your own. (approx. 50-75 words for the body)
- ii. Write an email to the parents as the principal of your school to inform them about the above mentioned science exhibition and invite them to visit, observe and encourage the participating students. (approx. 75-100 words for the body)

**Question IV. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. [20]**

*In the heart of the dense forest, where the trees stood tall and proud, a hidden world thrived. Deep within the green canopy, life buzzed with a symphony of sounds, each creature playing its unique part in the grand orchestra of nature. The air was thick with the earthy scent of moss and the sweet fragrance of wildflowers, creating a haven for those who sought solace in the embrace of the wilderness.*

*One particular morning, as the first rays of the sun penetrated the thick foliage, a rare sight unfolded. A family of golden deer emerged from the shadows, their coats shimmering like molten gold in the gentle sunlight. Their cautious steps echoed through the silent glade, the dew-laden grass providing a soft carpet beneath their hooves.*

*The leader of the pack, a majestic stag with antlers that reached towards the heavens, surveyed the surroundings with a watchful eye. His keen senses detected the slightest rustle in the underbrush, a skill honed through years of navigating the intricate tapestry of the forest. The younger deer followed in his footsteps, their innocence contrasting with the wisdom etched in the elder's eyes.*

*As they moved deeper into the heart of the forest, a distant waterfall beckoned, its melodious song drawing them closer. The air was alive with the calls of birds and the playful chatter of monkeys swinging from the branches. A gentle breeze carried tales of the forest's secrets, whispered among the leaves like ancient legends passed down through generations.*

*In this sanctuary untouched by the hands of man, the delicate balance of nature unfolded in a dance of survival and harmony. Every leaf, every creature, played its role in the intricate web of life, weaving a narrative of interconnectedness that spoke of the fragile beauty of the wilderness. And so, as the golden deer disappeared into the depths of the forest, they left behind a lingering sense of wonder—a reminder of the untamed magic that thrived beyond the borders of the human world.*

**Based on your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions:**

- i. Choose the most appropriate options for the questions below from those that follow:
  - a. What is the primary setting of the passage?
    1. A bustling city
    2. A dense forest
    3. A tranquil beach
    4. A mountain range
  - b. How is the appearance of the golden deer described in the passage?
    1. Shimmering like silver
    2. Dull and unremarkable
    3. Striped with vibrant colours
    4. Shimmering like molten gold
  - c. What does the leader of the deer possess that distinguishes him from the others?
    1. Swift agility
    2. Elaborate antlers
    3. Glowing eyes
    4. Multi-colored fur
- ii. Suggest a suitable title for this passage.
- iii. Answer the following in moderate detail:
  - a. Prepare a detailed description of the atmosphere in the forest as the golden deer emerged.

- b. What unique feature does the leader of the deer possess, and how does it contribute to his role in the forest?
  - c. How is the balance of nature portrayed in the passage, and what symbols represent this delicate equilibrium?
  - d. Explain the significance of the distant waterfall in the passage, and its impact on the golden deer.
- iv. Considering the portrayal of the forest in the passage as a sanctuary untouched by the hands of man, discuss the potential implications of human intervention in such natural havens. Reflect on the delicate balance of nature described in the passage and analyse how human activities might disrupt or harmonise with this balance. Support your response with insights from the passage and your own understanding of environmental conservation. (approx. 60-80 words)

**Question V. Grammar based exercises.**

- i. **Change the verbs in the following sentences to ensure they agree with the subject. Write down NO CHANGE for those where there is no need for editing the given sentence.** [4]
- a. The group of students **are** planning a field trip for next week.
  - b. Neither the teacher nor the students **were** aware of the surprise test.
  - c. Each of the books on the shelf **are** borrowed from the library.
  - d. The committee **have** submitted the final report to the board for review.
  - e. One of the reasons for the delay in the project **were** unforeseen challenges.
  - f. The collection of rare coins **was** displayed at the museum last month.
  - g. Every student, as well as the teacher, **were** excited about the upcoming school event.
  - h. The pair of shoes **need** to be replaced after the long hike.
- ii. **Complete the following sentences by inserting the most appropriate prepositions to form meaningful sentences.** [4]
- a. She is allergic \_\_\_\_\_ cats and dogs.
  - b. We need to be grateful \_\_\_\_\_ the opportunities we've been given.
  - c. The book is placed \_\_\_\_\_ the shelf in the living room.
  - d. The concert is scheduled \_\_\_\_\_ 7:30 PM.
  - e. He was accused \_\_\_\_\_ stealing the company's confidential information.
  - f. The keys are usually kept \_\_\_\_\_ the top drawer of the desk.
  - g. The team is confident \_\_\_\_\_ winning the championship.
  - h. The company specialises \_\_\_\_\_ producing eco-friendly products.
- iii. **Choose and write the most appropriate option in the following cases. Make sure you write both the option number and the option text in your answer script to avoid confusion.** [4]
- a. Synthesis: Pick the most appropriate conjunction to combine the following sentences.  
*The sun was shining brightly. It was a beautiful day.*
    - 1. And
    - 2. Because
    - 3. Although
    - 4. None of the above
  - b. Transformation: Rewrite the sentence using the passive voice.  
*They awarded him the Nobel Prize.*
    - 1. He was awarded the Nobel Prize.
    - 2. The Nobel Prize was awarded by them.
    - 3. The Nobel Prize was being awarded to him.
    - 4. He has been awarded the Nobel Prize.

c. Synthesis: Choose the most appropriate relative pronoun to combine these sentences.

*The book is interesting. I am reading it.*

1. Who
2. Which
3. Whose
4. Whom

d. Transformation: Rewrite the sentence in reported speech.

*"I will finish the project by tomorrow," she said.*

1. She says she would finish the project by tomorrow.
2. She said she will finish the project by the next day.
3. She says she will finish the project by tomorrow.
4. She said she would finish the project by the next day.

e. Synthesis: Combine the sentences using an appropriate infinitive phrase.

*She has a desire. She wants to travel the world.*

1. To travel the world is one of her desires.
2. Her desire is that she wants to travel the world.
3. To travel the world is what she desires.
4. She wants to travel the world.

f. Transformation: Rewrite the sentence using a conditional clause.

*If you study hard, you will pass the exam.*

1. Study hard and you will pass the exam.
2. You will pass the exam if you study hard.
3. Unless you study hard, you will pass the exam.
4. You will pass the exam by studying hard.

g. Synthesis: Combine the sentences using an appropriate gerund phrase.

*She enjoys playing the piano. It helps her relax.*

1. Playing the piano helps her relax when she enjoys it.
2. She enjoys playing the piano, and it helps her relax.
3. She enjoys playing the piano to help her relaxing.
4. Playing the piano, she enjoys it and it helps her relax.

h. Rewrite the sentence in the negative form:

*They visited that museum for the last time.*

1. They visited that museum before.
2. They had visited that museum before.
3. They never visited that museum again.
4. They have visited that museum again.

iv. **Pick the most appropriate options that rewrite the following sentences as per the instructions mentioned in the brackets.** [8]

a. If she practises regularly, she will improve her skills. (Change to Third Conditional)

1. By practising regularly, she will improve her skill.
2. Had she practised regularly, she would have improved her skills.
3. Practising regularly would have improved her skills.
4. Having practised regularly, she will have improved her skills.

b. He said that he was going to the market. (Change to Direct Speech)

1. He said, "I am going to the market."

2. "I was going to the market," he said.
  3. He says, "He will go to the market."
  4. He said, "We are going to the market."
- c. Dad shouted angrily, "Take the dog out for a walk." (Change to Indirect Speech)
1. Dad said, "Take the dog out for a walk."
  2. Dad beseeched us saying the dog must be taken out for a walk.
  3. Dad scolded us to take the dog out for a walk.
  4. Dad shouted, "the dog must be taken out for a walk."
- d. They announced that they had completed the project on time. (Change to Direct Speech)
1. They announced, "We've completed the project on time."
  2. They said triumphantly, "The project is over on time."
  3. "They have completed the project on time," they said.
  4. They stated, "Our project was over in time."
- e. If I had more time, I would have visited the museum. (Change to Second Conditional)
1. If I have more time I will visit the museum.
  2. Had I visited the museum, I would have more time.
  3. If visiting the museum would have given me more time, I would have gone.
  4. If I leave now, I could visit the museum on time.
- f. "I will call you later," she promised. (Change to Indirect Speech)
1. She promised to call me later.
  2. She said that she is promising to call me later.
  3. The promise she made was about calling me later.
  4. She promised to call at a latter time.
- g. If they know about the traffic, they will not be late. (Change to Third Conditional)
1. Knowing about the traffic, they will not be late.
  2. They would not be late while knowing about the traffic.
  3. Had they known about the traffic, they would not be late.
  4. If they are late, they do not know about the traffic.
- h. "The movie starts at 7:00 p.m.," he told us. (Change to Indirect Speech)
1. He told us about the movie having started at 7:00 p.m.
  2. He spoke out about the movie starting at 7:00 p.m.
  3. He informed us that the movie would start at 7:00 p.m.
  4. He said that the movie starts at 7 o'clock.

**X-X-X**