



## ICSE 2025 SPECIMEN

### DRAFT MARKING SCHEME – ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER 1)

#### COMPOSITION

<b>Answer 1</b>		[20]
(i)	The story must be original and must have at least three characters – the woman, her neighbour and the policeman. The ‘strangeness’ of the neighbour must be qualified, the encounter described and the action that arises out of the encounter.	
(ii)	This is a first-person account and must be narrated from within the plausible experience of a Class X candidate. There must be a clear description of the work entailed, the way in which the students learned to work together, the take-away or lesson learned.	
(iii)	Views either for or against are to be accepted. The candidate should take a clear stand and give valid reasons for whatever stand he/she takes.  There should be a cohesive well-constructed logical argument and ideas based on logical reasoning and personal experience.	
(iv)	Words of sight and sound must form the main body of this composition. Describe clearly the sights and sounds. Explain what about the locality appeals to you.	
(v)	A wide interpretation will be accepted. Any relevant ideas taken from the picture should be accepted. However, a <i>mere itemization / listing / description</i> of the picture is to be avoided.	
<b>Answer 2</b>		[10]
(i)	Friendly/Informal letter  Format, Content, Expression are important.  <b>Content</b>  Thank your uncle - you could use words like ‘grateful’, ‘thoughtful’  Describe how/on what you will spend the money – at least two things  Explain why you chose the two – how they will be useful, for example	
(ii)	Formal letter  Format, Content, Expression are important.  <b>Content</b>  Give details of problems caused e.g. spread of germs, stench  Offer suggestions for removal/cleaning e.g. regular inspections, garbage removal vans, closed vats etc.	

<b>Answer 3</b>		[10]
(i)	<p>Creative Title – e.g. Colour Palette, Mix and Mould</p> <p>Event: Inter School Art and Craft Competition</p> <p>Date: Accept single date for example ten days or fortnight away from the date of writing</p> <p>Time: e.g. 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.</p> <p>Venue: smaller place to larger e.g. Carnation Hall, St. Helen's School</p> <p>Participate: All pupils who wish to register should give their names to the Vice Principal/etc on or before...</p>	
(ii)	<p>E-mail – id</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>Salutation</p> <p>Opening sentence</p> <p>Closing sentence</p> <p>Subscription</p> <p>Expression – All details of the notice are to be included in the e-mail.</p>	
<b>Answer 4</b>		
(i)	<p>1. (d) skin</p> <p>2. (c) satisfied</p>	[2]
(ii)	(b) difficult	[1]
(iii)	<p>(a) he liked to stretch his naked brown body out on the animal's glistening hide/back, and start singing to himself [2]</p> <p>(b) he offered to teach the narrator to swim/ give him swimming lessons every afternoon [2]</p> <p>(c) any 2 reasons e.g to avoid being scolded for swimming/in the village pond/they swam when everyone was asleep – maybe the grownups would have been angry/they emerged in shades of green and khaki, so would have to sneak into the house through the bathroom and bathe under the tap to get clean first [2]</p> <p>(d) the tortoise/presented by the narrator to his grandfather [1]</p> <p>(e) it would draw its head and legs into its shell and defy all the dog's/dogs' attempts at rough play. [2]</p>	
(iv)	<p>Points:</p> <p>1. Ramu was well-versed in folklore</p> <p>2. he knew a great deal about birds and animals</p>	[8]

	3. many birds were sacred 4. we should be more gentle with birds and animals 5. we should not kill so many of them 6. we should respect them 7. we should acknowledge their rights 8. we should not destroy their forests <i>(Any six)</i>	
<b>Answer 5</b>		
(i)	[0. shone] 1. was not working 2. had used 3. halted/would halt 4. need 5. disappeared 6. could not believe 7. are you doing 8. will never see	[4]
(ii)	a. across b. against c. for d. since e. up f. down g. to h. aback	[4]
(iii)	1. (c) Unless you stay still we cannot take your photograph. 2. (b) Roy's mother rang up the school office to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp. 3. (c) Do you know where I left my keys? 4. (b) Neither the captain nor the players should be blamed for the team's defeat.	[4]

(iv)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. (c) No sooner did he finish speaking than the audience broke into loud applause.</li><li>2. (a) The news took everyone in my family by surprise.</li><li>3. (d) Yesterday was so much fun, wasn't it?</li><li>4. (d) I wouldn't eat that food unless I was really hungry.</li><li>5. (b) It is too hot and humid to sleep.</li><li>6. (a) I would rather go out with friends than stay alone at home.</li><li>7. (c) The teacher asked me why I had been absent the day before.</li><li>8. (a) She is one of the most graceful dancers.</li></ol>	[8]
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