

**ENGLISH
PAPER 1
(LANGUAGE)**

Z2000426

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allotted: Three Hours

Reading Time: Additional Fifteen Minutes

Instructions to Candidates

1. You are allowed **an additional fifteen minutes** for **only** reading the question paper.
2. You must **NOT** start writing during reading time.
3. This question paper has **7 printed pages and one blank page**.
4. It has **four** questions in all.
5. Answer **all** questions.
6. You are advised to spend not more than **45** minutes on **Question 1**, **55** minutes on **Question 2**, **30** minutes on **Question 3** and **50** minutes on **Question 4**.
7. While answering **Multiple Choice Questions** in **Question 4**, you are required to **write only one option** as the answer.
8. You should begin each answer on a fresh page.
9. The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [].

Instruction to Supervising Examiner

1. Kindly read **aloud** the Instructions given on page 1 to all the candidates present in the examination hall.
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Question 1

Write a composition (in approximately 400 – 450 words) on **any one** of the following subjects.

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for the orderly and coherent presentation of the matter, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

- (i) You were in-charge of costumes for a play to be performed on the annual day of your school. On the day of the performance, the lead actor's costume was lost. Describe the sights and sounds in the makeup room on the discovery of this loss. How was the problem resolved? What did this experience teach you about handling unexpected situations?
- (ii) Last year, on Teacher's Day, students of class XI in your school were given the responsibility of managing classes from kindergarten to class X. You were sent to take care of students of class I. Narrate the challenges you faced and what you did to keep the young ones occupied. How did this experience help you realise the relevance of Teacher's Day?
- (iii) Deforestation is essential for human progress. Argue **FOR** or **AGAINST** this statement.
- (iv) Gratitude
- (v) Nothing develops intelligence like travel. Present your reflections on this statement.
- (vi) Write an original short story that **ends** with the following words:
The letter he wrote, but never sent, had finally found its way to the right person.

Question 2

- (i) ABC Bank in your city has been robbed. As a reporter for a local daily, write a newspaper report in about 300 words, using the guidelines given below: **[15]**

Date and time of the robbery – valuables lost – failure of security systems – eyewitnesses' account – damage to property – police action

- (ii) As president of the Debate Club, you wish to conduct a training session for the new students to brief them on the skill of debating. Write a proposal in about 150 words stating the steps you would take to conduct the session successfully. **[10]**

Question 3

Answer subparts (i), (ii) and (iii).

- (i) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each of them in brackets. [5]
- (a) Rahul finished his breakfast and ran to catch the bus.
(Begin: Having)
- (b) We shall always remember our music teacher.
(Use: forget)
- (c) Despite being a wealthy man, he is not generous.
(Begin: Although)
- (d) Galileo was so curious about the stars that he could not ignore them.
(Use: too..... to)
- (e) Ankita did not know that she would be promoted.
(Begin: Little.....)
- (ii) Replace the **INCORRECT** underlined words to make the following sentences meaningful and grammatically correct. Do not copy the sentences. [5]
- (a) She has nothing to complain for, as she has everything.
- (b) He constantly complains on knee pain after his accident.
- (c) Mr. Mehra was engaged by an interesting conversation.
- (d) My cousin is engaged with a prominent lawyer in town and will soon be marrying her.
- (e) He is quite taken about with the brilliant idea.
- (f) She takes to her father in her passion for music.
- (g) The trip was called out at the last minute because the driver did not arrive on time.
- (h) The coach called up the names of the selected players.
- (i) Ravi tried to contact you over telephone but could not get away.
- (j) The tenant got around an argument with the landlord.

- (iii) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage but write the verbs in the correct order. [5]

We seem to have _____ (1) (perfect) the art of procrastination. It is not just about _____ (2) (put) things off, but about strategically prioritising.

We acknowledge the power of “just a quick scroll.” Five minutes on social media can easily _____ (3) (turn) into an hour, leaving us _____ (4) (wonder) where time went. But this waste of time is not a foe; it is a motivator. The closer the deadline, the more _____ (5) (focus) we _____ (6) (become), channelling that nervous energy into a coffee-fuelled all-nighter.

_____ (7) (Speak) of coffee, it is our lifeblood. We love it. A perfectly _____ (8) (make) coffee can lead to either _____ (9) (hand) in a long overdue report or _____ (10) (face) the anger of the boss.

Question 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions (i), (ii) and (iii) that follow.

- (1) The students at Tomoe school loved climbing trees. Little Totto-chan’s favourite tree was at the edge of the ground near the fence. It was a large tree and slippery to climb, but if you climbed it skillfully, you could get to a fork — an intersection of branches — about six feet from the ground. The fork was as comfortable as a hammock. Totto used to go there during lunch break or after school. She would sit and look off into the distance or up at the sky, and sometimes watch the people go by below. 5

- (2) Her friend, Yasuaki-chan, was born with weak legs and she had never climbed a tree. She would look at the other children with yearning in her eyes as they climbed trees joyfully. 10

“I’m going to get Yasuaki to climb the tree!” Totto said to herself. She shared the plan with Yasuaki.

When Totto reached the school the next day, she found Yasuaki waiting by the flower beds in the ground. It would be an ideal time to carry out their plan as it was summer vacation, the grounds were open to children but no one else would be around. It would be deserted. 15

- (3) When Yasuaki saw Totto, she hurried towards her, dragging her legs and holding her arms out in front to steady herself. Totto led Yasuaki to the tree and then ran to the maintenance room and got a ladder, which she dragged over to the tree. She leaned it against the trunk of the tree so that it reached the fork. She climbed up quickly and, holding the top of the ladder called down to Yasuaki, “Alright, try climbing up!” 20

- (4) Yasuaki's arms and legs were so weak that she could not even get on the first rung of the ladder without help. So Totto hurried down the ladder backward and tried pushing Yasuaki up from behind. But she was so small and slender that all she could do was to hold Yasuaki let alone keep the ladder steady. Totto realised that it was going to be more difficult than she had thought. What should she do? 25
- (5) "Wait! I've got an idea!" she exclaimed. She ran back to the maintenance room and discovered a stepladder. It would remain steady and she would not have to hold it. 30
Totto dragged the stepladder over, amazed at her own strength and was delighted to find that it almost reached the fork. Yasuaki took her foot off the bottom rung and stood beside the ladder, her head bowed. She was disconsolate.
- "Now, don't worry," Totto said in a big-sisterly voice. "This isn't going to wobble." She pointed at the stepladder. 35
- (6) Yasuaki looked nervously at the stepladder that Totto got. Then she looked at Totto, who was already ahead of her on the stepladder, drenched in perspiration. Yasuaki was sweating profusely too. She looked up at the tree. With determination, she placed a foot on the first step.
- (7) Neither of them was conscious of the time it took Yasuaki to reach the top of the stepladder. The hot summer sun beat down, but they had no thoughts for anything except getting Yasuaki to the top of the stepladder. Yasuaki struggled with all her might, and finally reached the top. 40
- (8) But from there it was difficult. Totto jumped onto the fork, but no matter how much she tried, she could not get Yasuaki onto the tree from the stepladder. She suddenly felt like crying. She had wanted so badly to invite Yasuaki on to the tree. 45
- (9) But she did not cry. She was afraid that if she did, Yasuaki might start crying, too. Instead, she took hold of Yasuaki and tried to pull her over. 50
If any grown-ups had seen what she was doing, they would have let out a scream. It must have looked terribly dangerous.
- (10) But Yasuaki trusted Totto completely. With her tiny hands clutching Yasuaki's, Totto pulled with all her might. From time to time, a large cloud would mercifully protect them from the blistering sun. 55
At last, the two stood face to face on the tree. Yasuaki was able to see vistas she had never glimpsed before. "So this is what it's like to climb a tree", she said happily. They stayed on the tree for a long time and talked about all sorts of things. The cicadas were singing and the two children were so happy. 60

(Adapted from: *Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window* by
Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, translated by Dorothy Britton)

- (i) (a) Find a single word from the passage that will **exactly replace the underlined word or words** in the following sentences: [3]
- (1) While returning from the late-night movie, I noticed that there was not a single person around. The streets were empty.
 - (2) When his team lost the match, he was hopelessly sad.
 - (3) The carpenter repaired the table so that it would not shake anymore.
- (b) For each of the words given below, choose the correct sentence that uses the same word **unchanged in spelling, but with a different meaning** from that which it carries in the passage. [3]
- (1) watch (line 6)
 - (A) It is a lovely experience to watch the waves on the beach.
 - (B) My uncle got me an expensive watch from Dubai.
 - (C) The nanny watches the children when I go out to work.
 - (D) We sat outside the cafe, watching the world go by.
 - (2) voice (line 34)
 - (A) His threatening voice did not frighten the thief.
 - (B) We heard the children's voices as they played in the garden.
 - (C) The authorities agreed with me when I voiced my concern.
 - (D) Our teacher encourages us to voice our opinions fearlessly.
 - (3) hands (line 53)
 - (A) She asked him to hand the document back to her.
 - (B) This programme provides hands-on experience in dealing with stocks and shares.
 - (C) Swati hands the baton to Vrinda effortlessly in the race.
 - (D) He handed in his papers after an argument with his superior.
- (ii) Answer the following questions as briefly as possible in your own words.
- (a) Explain why the tree at the edge of the ground was Totto-chan's favourite. [2]
 - (b) Why did Totto-chan decide to help Yasuaki-chan climb the tree? [2]
 - (c) Briefly discuss *any two* themes explored in the passage. [2]
- (iii) Totto-chan's first attempt to help Yasuaki climb the tree was unsuccessful. Refer only to paragraphs 6 to 9 and summarise how Totto-chan's subsequent efforts helped Yasuaki-chan 'see vistas she had never glimpsed before'. [8]
- You are required to write the summary in the form of a connected passage in about 100 words.