

**Sample Paper – 2014**  
**Class – X**  
**Subject – English Language**

Max Marks: 80

Max Time: 2hours

*(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for **only** reading the paper.  
They must **NOT** start writing during this time)*

*Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.  
You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15** minutes.  
This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.  
The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.  
Attempt **all four** questions.  
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].  
You are advised to spend not more than **35** minutes in answering **Question 1**  
and **20** minutes in answering **Question 2**.*

**Question 1**

**Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following:**

(Do not spend not more than **35** minutes on this Question.) [25]

- a) You reach home after school to find your house in total disarray and your mother missing. Describe your feelings and what steps you took to locate your mother.
- b) Write a story which includes a cruel king and a cunning astrologer,
- c) Cricketers should stick to playing the game and not endorse goods on television. Give your arguments for or against this statement.
- d) The World's Greatest Invention
- e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be directly about the Subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it, but there must be some clear connection between the picture and the composition.



### Question 2

Select any *one* of the following:

[10]

(a) You are regular customer of a reputed firm. A consignment send by them was not up to the mark, the quality being very inferior. Write a letter of complaint to the manager of the firm expressing your disappointment.

OR

(b) You borrowed an important book from a friend just before an Inter-school Speech Competition. Unfortunately you have misplaced it. Write a letter to your friend apologizing for the mishap and mentioning how you intend to make amends.

### Question 3

Read the passage given below: and answer the questions *a, b, c, and d* that follow:

[25]

The Indian must have had that nice window seat from London. He looked under 40, medium height, slim wearing a blazer. I boarded the Emirates flight in Dubai in October 2003. I got a seat next to him. I looked at him and smiled as I sat down. His face was blank. He had a distant look that made me stop mid-smile.

Whenever I take a flight, I try to chat with a fellow passenger. Most people are responsive when they are alone at 40,000 feet. There are some who barely nod, that's when I keep myself. Flying has helped me to get to know perfect strangers.

To a journalist this could be a seed of an unexpected story or a chance to hear something different. In good company time flies too. I've met all types, you never know who you'll meet next, and they are usually interesting, once you've **broken the ice**.

The man, on my left, wearing a blazer, on that three hour long Dubai-Mumbai flight, was a puzzle.

I glanced his way and he looked through me. One of the **snooty** non-resident Indian, I thought. What does one lose if you smiled at a fellow human being? He just stared fixedly at the seat in front of him. Why are some people so full of themselves?

When the stewardess brought lunch, the unfriendly man had his eyes shut. She gave me a should-I-wake him-up look. I didn't say anything and he didn't get his lunch. Serves him right.

He soon got up and saw me eat. But he didn't say anything or ask for his meal. He only had to press a button. That's his problem.

We still had almost two hours of flight left. I read a magazine. I tried to play a video game. I listened to music. He did nothing.

At times our eyes met, but he isn't all there, I thought. He's like no other passenger I've sat next to. By the time our jet landed in Mumbai, I found his presence almost unbearable and very uncomfortable. As we taxi down the runway, the intercom doles out the usual closing message. It ended with a request to keep all cell phone switched off a little longer. That's when I hear the man speak-on his cell phone. The cheek!

He was discussing his connecting flight. About somebody receiving him... it all sounded like some special arrangements. I had half a mind to tell him to shut up and switch it off.

Just before the aircraft came to a halt, he was the first man to stand up. "Excuse me, May I leave? I can't miss my connecting flight."

Hmm! I got up to make way, when he went on mechanically. "My wife and child died in a road accident in Delhi."

"Oh!" I exclaimed inadequately. "I'm so sorry."

As I see the man rushing out before the other passengers could block the **aisle**.

I'm shell shocked by the revelation. Suddenly, everything falls into place. The tables

have turned I'm the bad guy for having judged him so hastily- and so wrongly.

I could have spoken first! Despite his terrible loss and the torment he was enduring, he was so calm, controlled and dignified. Maybe in his soul-crushing sorrow he didn't want to burden a stranger with his pain.

That was a brave fellow traveller from whom I learned a valuable lesson: To look beyond the façade and to never assume anything until you have walked in the other man's shoe.

(a) Give the meaning of the following as used in the passage in one word or a phrase: [3]

i. Broken the ice ii. Snooty iii. Aisle

(b) Answer the following questions in your own words: [2\*5=10]

1. Describe the author's neighbour in the plane.
2. Quote the sentence, which states the nature of the author's work.
3. How did the neighbour miss his lunch?
4. What did the author do to kill time during the flight?
5. What shocked him in the end? What did he learn from this?
- 6.

(c) Summarize in 60 words show how the author learnt not to judge a book by the cover. [10]

(d) Give a suitable title to the summary and justify the choice of the title. [2]

**Question 4. GRAMMAR [20]**

**a. In the following passage, fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the words given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [8]**

In the field of journalism, cartoonists ....1.... (consider) as an unusual breed of people. By ...2... (draw) a few lines, they can highlight or ....3....(reduce) to dust somebody's character in the society. Their style of expression can ...4.... (deliver) a strong blow to the subject of caricature. R.K. Laxman ...5... (be) a cartoonist ....6...(endow) with the skill to draw attractive cartoons. With a deep understanding of political and social realities, he was able to see and express the reality through his protagonist—the Common Man with a ....7.... (close)

umbrella. For the readers, the Common Man...8...(become) a signature of Laxman's art.

**b. Join the following sentences to make one full sentence without using *and*, *but* or *so*. [4]**

1. His illness was serious. He stayed in bed for one month.
2. The project must be completed. It does not matter what it costs.
3. I must know the facts. I cannot help you otherwise.
4. They were drenched wet by now. The rain had come down heavily.

**c. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]**

1. How shall I go \_\_\_\_\_ solving the problem?
2. She has just come \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune.
3. Where can we dispose \_\_\_\_\_ this rubbish?
4. The prisoner broke \_\_\_\_\_ under questioning.
5. I now call \_\_\_\_\_ the Chairman to speak.
6. It is one of the best collections I have come \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. I can't make \_\_\_\_\_ what he means.
8. Can we agree \_\_\_\_\_ a course of action?

**d. Rewrite the following sentences correctly according to the instructions given after each. Make any necessary changes; don't change the meaning of the sentence. [8]**

1. George did not realize that he had committed an error. [Begin: Little ...]
2. I do not care which portfolio in the cabinet I am offered. [Begin: I care very...]
3. Rachel must apologize or else she will be punished. [Use: apology]
4. He succeeded in completing the assignments although he was ill.  
[Use: Despite...]
5. If I had not intervened in the matter, it would have had a drastic consequence.  
[Begin: But...]
6. The granny opened the door and her pet dog ran out. [End: dog]
7. If a fire breaks out, use the emergency exit. [Begin: In case of ...]
8. Always use a standard dictionary. Do not use a three-penny one.