

ISC Class 10 English Language Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 Hours

Maximum Marks :80

Total questions :38

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The ISC Class X (ICSE) English Language paper is of a total of 80 marks and the duration of the examination is 2 hours.
2. The paper is divided into two main sections – Section I (Compulsory) and Section II.
3. Section I is compulsory for all candidates and generally includes Composition Writing, Letter Writing (formal or informal), and a short précis or functional writing task as prescribed.
4. In the Composition section, candidates are required to write one composition (essay) from the given options. The composition should be relevant to the topic and within the prescribed word limit.
5. In the Letter Writing section, candidates must follow the correct format (formal or informal as required) and adhere strictly to the word limit mentioned in the question.
6. Section II generally includes Comprehension and Grammar. All questions in this section must be attempted as directed.
7. Answers to comprehension questions must be based strictly on the given passage. Candidates should use their own words as far as possible.
8. All answers must be written in English. Candidates should write neatly and clearly. The use of unfair means or electronic devices is strictly prohibited.

Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.

1. He picked up the bundle. He walked away.

- (A) He picked up the bundle and walked away.
- (B) Packing up the bundle, he walked away.
- (C) Picking up the bundle, he walked away.
- (D) He walked away by picking up the bundle.

Correct Answer: (C) Picking up the bundle, he walked away.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the instruction.

The question asks us to combine the two sentences into one complete sentence without using the conjunctions **and**, **but**, or **so**. Therefore, we must use another grammatical structure such as a participial phrase.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) uses the conjunction **and**, which is not allowed according to the instruction.
- (B) "Packing up the bundle" changes the meaning slightly because "packing up" suggests arranging or organizing, which is not stated in the original sentence.
- (C) "Picking up the bundle, he walked away." correctly uses a present participle phrase to combine the two actions into one sentence without using forbidden conjunctions. It keeps the original meaning intact.
- (D) "He walked away by picking up the bundle" changes the meaning because it suggests that walking away happened because of picking up the bundle, which is logically incorrect.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct sentence that combines both statements properly without using **and**, **but**, or **so** is option (C).

Quick Tip

To combine two actions without using conjunctions like and or but, use a present participle (-ing form) to create a participial phrase.

2. Ravi is not a technician. Ravi is not a musician.

- (A) Ravi is both a technician also a musician.
- (B) Ravi is neither a technician nor a musician.
- (C) Besides not being a technician, Ravi is a musician.
- (D) Ravi is not a musician but a technician.

Correct Answer: (B) Ravi is neither a technician nor a musician.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentences.

The two given sentences state two negative facts: Ravi is not a technician, and Ravi is not a musician. We must combine them into one correct sentence.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) is grammatically incorrect and changes the meaning to positive.
- (B) correctly uses the correlative conjunction **neither...nor** to combine two negative statements into one proper sentence.
- (C) changes the meaning by stating Ravi is a musician, which contradicts the original statement.
- (D) also changes the meaning because it suggests Ravi is a technician.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct combined sentence is option (B), which preserves the original negative meaning properly.

Quick Tip

Use **neither...nor** to combine two negative statements into one grammatically correct sentence.

3. Tanya is extremely polite. We like her.

- (A) Tanya is extremely polite but we like her.
- (B) We like Tanya despite her being extremely polite.
- (C) Tanya's extremely polite ways make us like her.
- (D) We like Tanya because she is extremely polite.

Correct Answer: (D) We like Tanya because she is extremely polite.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the meaning of the two sentences.

The first sentence states that Tanya is extremely polite.

The second sentence states that we like her.

The relationship between the two sentences shows a cause-and-effect connection.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) uses **but**, which shows contrast. There is no contrast in the original sentences.

(B) uses **despite**, which also shows contrast and changes the meaning.

(C) is grammatically acceptable but slightly alters the structure and emphasis of the original sentence.

(D) correctly combines both sentences using **because**, clearly showing that we like Tanya due to her politeness.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct combined sentence is option (D), as it logically and grammatically connects the cause and effect.

Quick Tip

Use "because" to combine two sentences when one statement is the reason for the other.

4. The construction started on time. It was delayed due to the bad weather.

(A) Although the construction started on time, it was delayed due to the bad weather.

(B) Since the construction started on time, it was delayed due to the bad weather.

(C) The construction started on time, so it was delayed due to the bad weather.

(D) The construction started on time, as well as got delayed due to the bad weather.

Correct Answer: (A) Although the construction started on time, it was delayed due to the bad weather.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the relationship between the sentences.

The first sentence states that the construction began on time.

The second sentence states that it was delayed because of bad weather.

This shows a contrast between starting on time and later being delayed.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) correctly uses **although** to show contrast between the two ideas.

(B) uses **since**, which indicates cause and creates an illogical meaning.

(C) uses **so**, which suggests result and is incorrect in meaning.

(D) is grammatically incorrect and does not properly combine the sentences.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is option (A), as it properly expresses contrast between the two statements.

Quick Tip

Use "although" to combine two contrasting ideas into one complete sentence.

5. Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each.

(A). Samudragupta was one of the greatest of the Indian kings.

(End with: ...Samudragupta.)

(A) No other king is as great as Samudragupta.

(B) All other kings are greater than Samudragupta.

(C) Very few Indian kings were as great as Samudragupta.

(D) Some Indian kings are greatest as Samudragupta.

Correct Answer: (C) Very few Indian kings were as great as Samudragupta.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the original sentence.

The sentence states that Samudragupta was one of the greatest Indian kings.

This means that only a small number of kings were equal to him in greatness.

Step 2: Applying the instruction.

The sentence must end with **Samudragupta**.

We need to rewrite the sentence while preserving its original meaning and following the instruction.

Step 3: Analyzing the options.

(A) changes the degree of comparison and meaning.

(B) gives the opposite meaning.

(C) correctly expresses the same idea using the structure **Very few...were as great as Samudragupta**, and ends with Samudragupta.

(D) is grammatically incorrect.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct rewritten sentence is option (C).

Quick Tip

”One of the greatest” can often be rewritten as ”Very few were as great as...” to maintain the same meaning.

(B). One should keep one’s promises.

(Begin with: Promises ...)

(A) Promises should keep one.

(B) One’s promises are not meant to be kept.

(C) Promises should be kept.

(D) Promises are one’s to keep.

Correct Answer: (C) Promises should be kept.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the original sentence.

The sentence expresses a moral duty that a person must keep his or her promises.

Step 2: Applying the instruction.

We must begin the sentence with the word **Promises**.

To do this correctly, we convert the sentence into passive voice.

Step 3: Analyzing the options.

(A) is grammatically incorrect.

(B) gives the opposite meaning.

(C) correctly changes the sentence into passive form while keeping the same meaning.

(D) changes the structure and meaning slightly.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct rewritten sentence is option (C).

Quick Tip

To begin a sentence with the object, convert the active voice into passive voice while maintaining the original meaning.

(C). He said, “I have passed the examination.”

(Begin: He said that...)

(A) He said that he had passed the examination.

(B) He said that he passed the examination.

(C) He said that he has passed the examination.

(D) He said that he will pass the examination.

Correct Answer: (A) He said that he had passed the examination.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence.

The given sentence is in direct speech:

He said, “I have passed the examination.”

The reporting verb **said** is in the past tense.

Step 2: Rule of reported speech.

When the reporting verb is in the past tense, the tense of the reported clause usually changes to its corresponding past form.

Present perfect tense (have passed) changes to past perfect tense (had passed).

Step 3: Analyzing the options.

(A) correctly changes “have passed” to “had passed” and follows proper reported speech rules.

(B) does not correctly shift the tense.

(C) keeps the tense unchanged, which is incorrect here.

(D) changes the meaning completely.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct reported speech is option (A).

Quick Tip

When converting direct speech to indirect speech, shift the tense back if the reporting verb is in the past tense.

(D). He finished his exercise and put his books away.

(Begin: Having ...)

(A) Having his books put away, he exercised.

(B) Having put his books away, he finished his exercise.

(C) Having finished his exercise, he put his books away.

(D) Having to finish his exercise, he put his books away.

Correct Answer: (C) Having finished his exercise, he put his books away.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the original sentence.

The sentence describes two actions in sequence:

First, he finished his exercise.

Second, he put his books away.

Step 2: Applying the instruction.

We must begin the sentence with **Having**.

The structure “Having + past participle” is used to show that one action was completed before another.

Step 3: Analyzing the options.

(A) changes the meaning and structure.

(B) reverses the order of actions.

(C) correctly shows that finishing the exercise happened first, followed by putting the books away.

(D) changes the meaning completely.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct rewritten sentence is option (C).

Quick Tip

Use "Having + past participle" to show that one action was completed before another action in the past.

(E). Unless she practises every day, she will not be able to meet her goal.

(Begin with: If...)

(A) If she practises every day, she will be able to meet her goal.

(B) If she practises every day, she will not be able to meet her goal.

(C) If she does not practise every day, her goal will be met.

(D) If she practises every day, her goal will not be met.

Correct Answer: (A) If she practises every day, she will be able to meet her goal.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence.

The word **unless** means "if not".

The sentence means: If she does not practise every day, she will not be able to meet her goal.

Step 2: Converting using 'If'.

When rewriting a sentence with **unless** into one beginning with **If**, we remove the negative idea carefully.

The correct transformation is: If she practises every day, she will be able to meet her goal.

Step 3: Analyzing the options.

(A) correctly expresses the positive condition required to meet her goal.

- (B) keeps the negative meaning incorrectly.
- (C) changes the meaning completely.
- (D) also gives the wrong meaning.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct rewritten sentence is option (A).

Quick Tip

”Unless” means ”if not”. When converting, be careful to adjust the negative correctly.

(F). Rashmi was too late to hear the first speech.

(Use: ...so...that...)

- (A) Rashmi was so late for the first speech.
- (B) Rashmi was so late that she could hear the first speech.
- (C) Rashmi is so late that she cannot hear the first speech.
- (D) Rashmi was so late that she could not hear the first speech.

Correct Answer: (D) Rashmi was so late that she could not hear the first speech.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the structure.

The structure ”too...to” shows that something happened to such an extent that the result was negative.

Here, Rashmi was so late that she could not hear the speech.

Step 2: Converting to ”so...that”.

The correct equivalent structure is:

So + adjective + that + result clause (usually negative in this case).

Step 3: Analyzing the options.

- (A) is incomplete and does not use the full structure.
- (B) gives the opposite meaning.
- (C) changes the tense and meaning.
- (D) correctly converts the sentence into the required structure while keeping the original

meaning.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is option (D).

Quick Tip

”Too...to” can be changed into ”so...that” by introducing a negative result clause.

6. Write a composition (300–350 words) on any one of the following:

(A). Write an original short story beginning with the words: It was midnight and the doorbell rang...

Solution:

It was midnight and the doorbell rang. The sudden sound broke the deep silence of the night. I was alone at home, preparing for my exams, when the unexpected ringing made my heart pound. At first, I ignored it, thinking someone might have pressed the wrong bell. But it rang again, longer this time.

Gathering courage, I walked slowly toward the door. The corridor seemed darker than usual. I peeped through the window and noticed a man standing outside, holding a small parcel. He looked tired and anxious. I hesitated but finally asked who he was. He replied that he was a delivery agent and that the parcel was urgent.

Confused, I told him that no one had ordered anything. He checked the address again and realized he had mistakenly come to the wrong house. Just as he was about to leave, his bike refused to start. It was raining lightly, and he looked helpless.

I felt sorry for him and offered him some water. I also allowed him to wait under the porch until the rain stopped. After some time, he managed to fix his bike and thanked me sincerely before leaving.

When I went back inside, I reflected on how fear often clouds our judgment. The midnight doorbell, which had frightened me at first, turned out to be a simple misunderstanding. That night, I learned that kindness should never be delayed by fear.

Quick Tip

Start your story with suspense, build emotional tension in the middle, and conclude with a clear lesson or reflection.

(B). If you could change one period in your school timetable, which one would you choose? Why do you think it needs to be changed and with which subject or activity would you replace it?

Solution:

If I were given the opportunity to change one period in my school timetable, I would choose to replace one of the extra theory-based periods with a Life Skills and Practical Learning period. While academic subjects are extremely important, students also need practical knowledge that prepares them for real life.

In our current timetable, we already have multiple periods of subjects like Mathematics and Science in a week. Although these subjects are essential, sometimes the long theoretical sessions become repetitive and exhausting. Students often feel stressed and overwhelmed by continuous academic pressure.

Replacing one such period with a Life Skills class would make a significant difference. In this period, students could learn communication skills, financial literacy, basic first aid, stress management, and problem-solving techniques. These are skills that are rarely taught in textbooks but are crucial in daily life.

Additionally, this period could include interactive activities such as group discussions, presentations, and role-plays. Such activities would not only make learning enjoyable but also build confidence and teamwork among students. It would provide a refreshing break from regular academic studies while still contributing to personal growth.

I believe that education should focus on overall development rather than only academic excellence. By introducing a Life Skills period, schools can prepare students not just for exams, but for life itself. A balanced timetable that combines theory with practical knowledge would create more confident, responsible, and capable individuals.

Quick Tip

In opinion-based compositions, clearly state your choice, provide logical reasons, suggest practical improvements, and conclude with a strong summary.

(C). You and your family enjoy eating out. Give a description of your favourite restaurant or food stall, and the sights and smells that attract you to the place. Explain why you like eating here.

Solution:

One of my favourite places to eat with my family is a small restaurant called “Spice Garden” located near the city park. Although it is not very large or luxurious, it has a warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes it special.

As soon as we enter, the delightful aroma of freshly cooked food fills the air. The smell of roasted spices, butter, and freshly baked bread instantly makes my mouth water. The soft sizzling sound coming from the kitchen adds to the excitement. The restaurant is beautifully decorated with simple wooden furniture, soft yellow lights, and indoor plants that create a calm and pleasant environment.

The most attractive part of the place is the open kitchen. We can see the chefs preparing dishes with great care and skill. Watching the flames rise from the pans and hearing the rhythmic chopping of vegetables makes the experience even more enjoyable.

My favourite dish there is butter paneer with hot naan. The rich gravy, blended with aromatic spices and cream, tastes heavenly. Even their desserts, especially the sizzling brownie with ice cream, are unforgettable.

However, what makes this restaurant truly special is the feeling of togetherness. We laugh, share stories, and spend quality time while enjoying delicious food. The friendly staff and quick service add to the comfort.

For me, Spice Garden is not just a place to eat — it is a place where flavours meet memories. That is why it remains my favourite restaurant.

Quick Tip

In descriptive writing, appeal to the five senses — sight, smell, taste, sound, and touch — to make your description vivid and engaging.

(D). ‘Homework is a necessary evil.’ Express your views either for or against this statement.

Solution:

The statement “Homework is a necessary evil” suggests that although homework may seem unpleasant, it is important and unavoidable. I partially agree with this view.

Homework often feels burdensome to students. After spending long hours at school, many students wish to relax or pursue hobbies. Excessive homework can cause stress, reduce family time, and even affect sleep. In this sense, homework appears to be an “evil.”

However, homework also plays a significant role in reinforcing learning. It helps students revise what they have learned in class and practice new concepts independently. Regular assignments improve discipline, responsibility, and time management skills.

The real issue is not homework itself but the amount and type of homework given.

Meaningful and creative assignments can make learning enjoyable. For example, project work, research tasks, and practical activities are far more engaging than repetitive written exercises.

Therefore, homework should not be seen as an enemy but as a tool for growth. If balanced properly, it can strengthen understanding without overwhelming students.

In conclusion, homework may sometimes feel like a necessary evil, but when designed thoughtfully, it becomes a necessary good that contributes to academic success and personal development.

Quick Tip

In argumentative writing, clearly state your position, support it with balanced reasoning, and conclude with a strong summary of your viewpoint.

5. Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. There must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.

Solution:

The picture suggests a scene of determination and teamwork. It shows a group of people working together to overcome a difficult situation. From their expressions and actions, it is clear that the task is challenging, yet they are united in their efforts.

The background appears rough and demanding, perhaps symbolizing obstacles in life.

However, instead of giving up, the individuals are supporting one another. One person leads, another pushes forward, and others follow with courage. This visual reminds me that success is rarely achieved alone.

Life often presents challenges that seem impossible at first glance. Just like the people in the picture, we must cooperate, share responsibilities, and motivate each other. When individuals combine their strengths, even the hardest problems become manageable.

The image also highlights the importance of leadership and trust. Without coordination, their efforts would fail. It teaches that unity, perseverance, and belief are powerful tools in overcoming adversity.

To me, the picture conveys a simple yet profound message — together we are stronger. No matter how difficult the path may be, teamwork and determination can lead us toward success.

Quick Tip

When writing based on a picture, describe visible details first, interpret their meaning, and connect them to a broader life lesson.

6(A). Your examinations are drawing near, and you would like to form a study group. Write a letter to one of your classmates inviting him or her to join it. Give details of how you plan to revise and explain why it would be helpful.

Solution:

45, Green Park Colony

Bhopal

17 February 2026

Dear Riya,

I hope you are doing well. As our examinations are drawing near, I have been thinking seriously about effective preparation strategies. I am planning to form a small study group and would be delighted if you could join us.

The idea is to meet every evening from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at my house. We will divide the syllabus subject-wise and revise one topic each day. After revising the concepts, we will solve previous years' question papers and discuss difficult problems together. We can also conduct short tests every weekend to evaluate our preparation.

Studying in a group will help us clarify doubts quickly, improve our understanding, and stay motivated. It will also save time as we can exchange notes and share important points. I truly believe that combined effort will boost our confidence and improve our performance in the examinations.

Please let me know if you are interested. I am looking forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,

Aman

Quick Tip

While writing an informal letter, maintain a friendly tone, include proper address and closing, and clearly mention the purpose of writing.

6(B). The drainage system in your locality needs repair. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner stating the problems caused due to this. Suggest solutions to improve the situation.

Solution:

45, Green Park Colony

Bhopal

17 February 2026

To,

The Municipal Commissioner

Municipal Corporation

Bhopal

Subject: Urgent complaint regarding damaged drainage system in our locality

Respected Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw your attention to the poor condition of the drainage system in Green Park Colony. The drains are broken and frequently clogged, causing dirty water to overflow onto the roads.

This has resulted in foul smell, unhygienic surroundings, and the breeding of mosquitoes. Residents, especially children and elderly people, are facing serious health risks such as dengue and malaria. During rainfall, the situation worsens as water stagnates for several days, making it difficult for people to commute.

I request the concerned department to conduct an immediate inspection and repair the damaged drains. Regular cleaning, proper covering of open drains, and installation of a better waste disposal system would greatly improve the situation. Strict monitoring should also be ensured to prevent future blockages.

I hope the authorities will take prompt action in this matter for the welfare of the residents.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Aman

Quick Tip

In a formal letter, use respectful language, mention the subject clearly, state the problem precisely, and suggest practical solutions.

7(A). Your school is organising an Inter House Non-Flame Cooking Competition. Write a notice informing the students about the event.

Solution:

ABC PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOTICE

Inter House Non-Flame Cooking Competition

Date: 15 July 2025

All the students are hereby informed that our school is organising an Inter House Non-Flame Cooking Competition on 25 July 2025 in the school auditorium at 10:00 a.m.

The competition aims to promote creativity, healthy eating habits, and teamwork among students. Participants are required to prepare nutritious and innovative dishes without using fire. All ingredients and materials must be brought by the participants themselves.

Each house can send a team of two students from classes VI to IX. Interested students must give their names to their respective House Captains by 20 July 2025.

For further details, contact the undersigned.

Riya Sharma

Cultural Secretary

Quick Tip

A notice must include the name of the institution, heading, date, clear event details, and the name/designation of the issuing authority.

7(B). Write an email to a famous chef, inviting him/her to judge the event.

Solution:

From: culturalclub@abcschool.com

To: chefraculmehra@gmail.com

Subject: Invitation to Judge Inter House Non-Flame Cooking Competition

Dear Chef Rahul Mehra,

Greetings from ABC Public School.

We are pleased to inform you that our school is organising an Inter House Non-Flame Cooking Competition on 25 July 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in our school auditorium. The event aims to encourage creativity, culinary skills, and healthy eating habits among students.

We would be highly honoured if you could grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and Judge for the competition. Your expertise and experience in the culinary field would greatly inspire our young participants.

Kindly let us know your availability at your earliest convenience. We sincerely hope you will accept our invitation and make the event memorable for our students.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Riya Sharma

Cultural Secretary

ABC Public School

Contact: 9876543210

Quick Tip

An email should include sender details, recipient address, subject line, proper greeting, clear purpose, polite closing, and signature.