

MAR THOM A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, THIRUVALLA  
FIRST TERMINAL EXAMINATION - August 2017

STD IX

PAPER I - ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Marks: 80

Time: 2 Hrs

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following:

[25]

- (a) You were caught up in a traffic jam. Describe your frustration, disappointment and irritation and suggest ways to solve this problem.
- (b) Narrate an incident which has changed your life for ever.
- (c) Study the picture given below. Write a short story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it, but there must be some clear connection between the picture and the composition.



Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select **one** of the following:

- (a) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your concern on price rise causing inconvenience to the common man.
- (b) You had been rude to your friend. Write a letter to him or her apologising for your behaviour.

### Question 3

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

An important reason for 'ants' success is their ability to talk-not with words but with tastes and smells. Their vocabulary is made up of a mixture of substances they produce in various parts of their bodies and emit via their glands. The so-called pheromones are signals that other ants can smell and taste. The messages they communicate set off a specific kind of behaviour: fetching food for instance or looking after the brood or feeding the queen. Furthermore, ant-talk is not limited to food. Ants use a hundred different scents to communicate a hundred different messages. With such a sophisticated *array* of messenger fragrances, ants organize complicated tasks with close-to-perfect efficiency. Every ant is a specialist with a vocation of its own. The queen has one of the biggest workloads-laying eggs round the clock. Despite the presence of a queen, an ant colony is not a monarchy. The word 'queen' is actually a misnomer. "She doesn't reign over the others," says Holldobler. "She's a machine for laying eggs. "From morning till night she produces her daughters, the sterile workers of the colony. Males don't have to do much and the queen only produces them when reproduction time is approaching. Their main job is to fertilize the winged females. After that they die. Messengers don't have much free time either. When you see a handful of ants scurrying around in the kitchen without any apparent purpose, it doesn't mean they have lost their bearings. They're scouts foraging for food. Once they've found something edible, they report back to base, depositing their chemical spores on the way. "Food located, please collect," is the taste and smell message for the other members back at the nest. Very soon, long chains of worker ants begin scurrying back and forth from their nest *ferrying* food which they hand over to ants who specialize in housekeeping. The duties of these ants include keeping the nest in good order and cleaning and feeding the queen. Jet ants settle in hollow trees where they build papery structures to live in. In these trees they keep herds of greenflies which they actually milk in the same way as milk cows. It's a model partnership. To satisfy their need for amino acids, the greenflies have to ingest large quantities of sap. As a result, surplus sugar forms in their bodies which they excrete through their rear ends. This so-called honeydew is the jet ants' main source of nourishment. In return, the ants see to it that the greenflies don't get stuck fast in their own honey and also protect their herds from marauding *predators* such as ladybirds. "It's a form of dairy farming," says Holldobler. Dairying is only one of the many ingenious ideas ants have come up with in the course of evolution. Small red wood ants, for example, regulate the temperature in their high-rise ant hills by sunbathing on warm spring days and then scuttling back to the nest double quick to give off the warmth they've soaked up. An ant colony, Holldobler says, is an almost perfectly organized network of equal status elements complementing one another in all they do. Ants will do anything as long as it's in the service of the common weal. "May be socialism does work after all under certain circumstances," Holldobler grins. "Karl Marx just had the wrong species in mind."

(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

(i) Array

(ii) Ferrying

(iii) Predators

[3]

(b) Answer briefly the following questions in your own words.

- (i) What is meant by 'misnomer'? Why is the word 'queen' a misnomer? [3]
- (ii) When do the chains of worker ants move about in a hurry? [3]
- (iii) What is referred to as 'milk' from the greenflies? [3]
- (iv) What do the greenflies receive in return for giving milk to the ants? [3]
- (v) What does Holldobler wish to communicate by the following sentence:- [2]

*"Karl Marx just had the wrong species in mind."*

(c) In not more than 60 words of your own, state how the ants work in a well organized manner. [8]

#### Question 4

(a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. [4]  
Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

A giant plane \_\_\_\_\_ (1) (carry) 43 passengers was forced to crash-land when its \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (land) gear got struck. Only the skill of the pilot \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (prevent) a major tragedy \_\_\_\_\_ (4) (not come) down as it prepared to land at the airport. Expert mechanics laboured over the plane for three hour before they found what caused the mechanical \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (fail). What they found was almost unbelievable. A nut about as small as a pencil eraser \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (fall) into a channel, or had been picked up on the runway, and had prevented a pin from being withdrawn. This in turn kept the gear from \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (move) Small things, often determine the well-being of countless people. One incident can endanger the \_\_\_\_\_ (8) (safe) of a large number of people.

(b) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word:

- (i) My father impressed \_\_\_\_\_ me the need to work hard.
- (ii) The ship is bound \_\_\_\_\_ Austria.
- (iii) She reconciled herself \_\_\_\_\_ her fate.
- (iv) The roof gave way \_\_\_\_\_ the weight of the snow.
- (v) He changed \_\_\_\_\_ his right clothes.
- (vi) How did all this come \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- (vii) He bore \_\_\_\_\_ the first prize in the competition.
- (viii) His pride has brought \_\_\_\_\_ his crisis.

(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.

(i) He has won the first prize. I am pleased to announce it.

(ii) Pull the chain. The train will.

(iii) Arjun is still very weak. He must not play cricket yet.

(iv) Meeta is very clever. No problem is beyond her.

[4]

(d) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each.

Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence.

(i) The report was being examined by an expert.

(Begin: An expert.....)

(ii) "What will be the outcome such a terrible decision?" Mr. Banerjee asked himself

(Begin: Mr. Banerjee wondered.....)

(iii) We clapped as soon as the Chief Guest arrived.

(Begin: No sooner .....)

(iv) There's no point in taking my car if I can't find a place to park it.

(Begin: What's .....)

(v) You remembered to take your medicines, didn't you?

(Re-write using: You didn't .....)

(vi) I think you should come back tomorrow.

(Begin: You had .....)

(vii) As soon as I arrived I had a cup of tea.

(Begin: Upon .....)

(viii) 'Do you mean to go abroad?'

(Use: intention)