

ENGLISH
PAPER 2
(LITERATURE IN ENGLISH)
(Prescribed Textbooks)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allotted: Three Hours

Reading Time: Additional Fifteen Minutes

Instructions to Candidates

- You are allowed **additional fifteen minutes** for **only** reading the question paper.
- You must **NOT** start writing during reading time.
- This question paper has **7 printed pages**.
- It has **5 questions** in all.
- Answer **all** questions.
- While answering Question 1 in Section A, you are required to **write only ONE option as the correct answer**.
- **Internal choice** has been given in the **long answer questions** on Drama, Prose and Poetry.
- **Do not exceed the prescribed word limit** while answering the questions in Section B.
- The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [].

Instruction to Supervising Examiner

- Kindly read **aloud** the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the examination hall.

SECTION A– 20 MARKS

Question 1

[10]

Choose the correct options for the following questions.

- (i) How does Lady Macbeth attempt to divert the attention of the guests from Macbeth's strange behaviour at the banquet? **(Recall)**
- (a) She uses her social grace and charm to distract the guests.
 - (b) She engages the guests in conversation and entertainment.
 - (c) She pretends that Macbeth has an illness that is momentary.
 - (d) She speaks of Macbeth's courage in troubled times.
- (ii) What is Macbeth's reaction when he sees Banquo's ghost at the banquet? **(Recall)**
- (a) He pretends to remain calm and collected.
 - (b) He is terrified and loses control over himself.
 - (c) He blames Ross and Lennox for playing tricks on him.
 - (d) He is proud and boastful.
- (iii) What does Banquo's soliloquy in Act III Scene i of the play *Macbeth*, reveal about him? **(Understanding)**
- (a) He is afraid of Macbeth.
 - (b) He is puzzled and confused.
 - (c) He is jealous of Macbeth and wishes to seize the throne.
 - (d) He is suspicious of Macbeth's actions.
- (iv) In Act V of the play *Macbeth*, which one of the following do you think reflects the tragic arc of the play? **(Analysis)**
- (P) Macbeth's soliloquy; "Out, out brief candle, Life's but a walking shadow."
 - (Q) Lady Macbeth's breakdown: "What's done cannot be undone."
 - (R) Macduff's greeting: "Hail, King of Scotland."
 - (S) Malcolm's final words: "So, thanks to all at once and to each one, whom

we invite to see us crowned at Scone.”

- (a) (P) and (R)
 - (b) (P) and (Q)
 - (c) (R) and (S)
 - (d) (P) and (S)
- (v) Read the two statements from the short story, *The Cookie Lady* and choose the correct option from the ones given below. **(Analysis)**
- Statement I: “Why don’t you read to me from your books? You know I don’t see too well anymore and it’s comfort to me to be read to.”
- Statement II: “You don’t mind if I touch your arm, do you?”
- (a) Statement I and II are similar.
 - (b) Statement I and II are not related to each other.
 - (c) Statement II is the reason for Statement I.
 - (d) Statement I is the reason for Statement II.
- (vi) Which of the following **BEST** captures the central idea of the short story, *The Medicine Bag*? **(Interpret)**
- (a) Embracing one’s cultural roots.
 - (b) Disrespect for the older generation.
 - (c) The fruits of modernisation.
 - (d) Peer pressure in adolescents.
- (vii) Which natural element plays a crucial role in the end of the story *There Will Come Soft Rains*? **(Recall)**
- (a) Hail
 - (b) Wind
 - (c) Heat
 - (d) Rain
- (viii) In the poem *Telephone Conversation*, the potent metaphor “stench of rancid breath” is used to: **(Interpret)**
- (a) evoke a strong sense of repulsion and disgust.
 - (b) describe bad odour in the telephone booth.

- (c) create a toxic atmosphere.
 - (d) create a mental image of the lady with bad breath.
- (ix) Why does Shane Koyczan begin the poem, *Beethoven*, with the word “Listen”?
- (Analysis)**
- (a) To highlight the fact that Beethoven was abused.
 - (b) To make the poem appealing and lend rhythm.
 - (c) To add novelty to the beginning.
 - (d) To align it with the theme of music.
- (x) How is Death personified in the opening lines of the poem, *Death be Not Proud*?
- (Recall)**
- (a) As a desperate man
 - (b) As a gentle agent of Fate
 - (c) As a mighty conqueror
 - (d) As a reaper of souls

Question 2

Complete the following sentences by providing a reason for each in brief. Do not write the question. [10]

- (i) Macbeth returns to the witches in Act IV Scene i because _____.
(Understanding)
- (ii) In Act V Scene viii of the play *Macbeth*, Macbeth initially refuses to fight Macduff because _____.
(Recall)
- (iii) In Act III Scene iv of the play *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth dismissed the guests at the banquet without standing on any ceremony because _____.
(Analysis)
- (iv) The escape of Fleance in Act III Scene iii of the play, *Macbeth*, is significant because _____.
(Interpret)
- (v) In the short story, *Atithi*, Motilal Babu and Annapurna choose Tarapada as a prospective groom for their daughter because _____.
(Recall)

- (vi) In the short story, *The Cookie Lady*, Mrs. Drew wanted Bubber to keep visiting her because _____ . (Understanding)
- (vii) In the short story, *Indigo*, Aniruddha asked Sukhanram if there were ghosts in the bungalow because _____ . (Recall)
- (viii) In the poem, *Telephone Conversation*, the speaker resented the landlady asking him about the colour of his skin because _____ . (Analysis)
- (ix) In the poem, *Small Towns and the River*, the dead are placed pointing west because _____ . (Recall)
- (x) Beethoven amputated the legs of his piano because _____ . (Recall)

SECTION B – 60 MARKS

MACBETH –WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Question 3

- (i) How does Malcolm’s character grow and change over the course of the play? [5]
Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. (Analysis)
- (a) Malcolm’s testing of Macduff in Act IV
- (b) His generalship and the restoration of order through Macduff
- (ii) In what ways does power corrupt in the play *Macbeth*? Discuss any one character who is corrupted by power in the play. [5]
Incorporate the following details and answer in 100-150 words. (Understanding)
- (a) The character’s traits before coming to power
- (b) The character’s degeneration after coming into power
- (iii) (a) Do you agree with the view that Macbeth is fighting a lost battle against forces beyond his control? Justify your point of view in about 200- 250 words by referring to the Acts studied. [10] (Evaluate)

OR

- (b) When do you have flashes of sympathy and admiration for Lady Macbeth in the course of the play? Explain by citing examples from the Acts studied. Write your answer in about 200-250 words. [10] (Interpret)

PRISM- A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Question 4

- (i) *The Medicine Bag* traces the narrator's attitude to his Sioux Grandfather, from mild embarrassment to appreciation. Summarise the reasons for this embarrassment and the change. [5]
(Understanding)

Write your answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.

- (a) Reasons for embarrassment
(b) Specific reasons for the change in attitude
- (ii) Referring closely to the short story, *The Cookie Lady*, explore Mrs. Drew's fascination with Bubber. [5]

Answer in 100-150 words Incorporating the following details.

- (a) Mrs. Drew's repeated interactions with Bubber
(b) Role of the cookies in the short story
- (iii) (a) Tarapada, the central character in the short story, *Atithi*, is a free soul who cannot be restrained by the bonds of society. Examine this statement in 200-250 words. [10]
(Analysis)

OR

- (b) Discuss the absence of human characters in the story, *There Will Come Soft Rains*. How does this absence contribute to the overall tone and message of the narrative? Answer in 200-250 words. [10]
(Analysis)

RHAPSODY: POETRY

Question 5

- (i) In what ways does the speaker's cultural background clash with the landlady's expectations in the poem Telephone Conversation? [5]

Write your answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.

- (a) The speaker's conversation with the landlady
(b) The undertones of racial and colour bias in the conversation

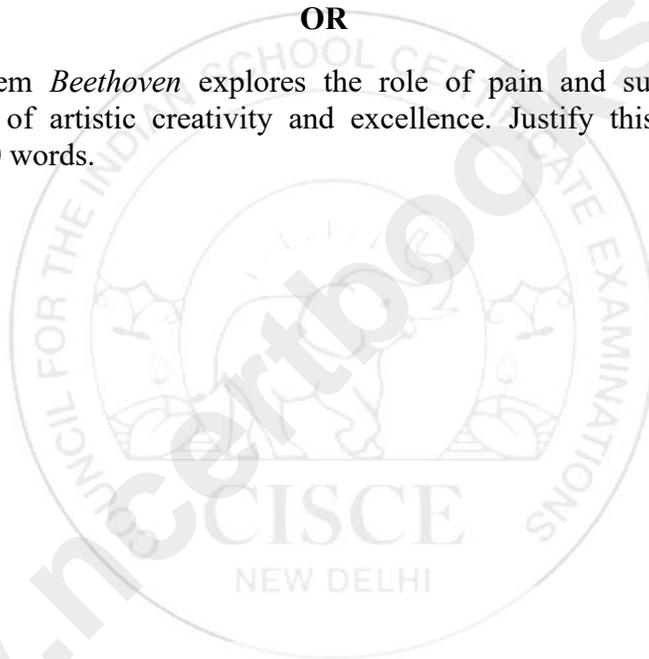
- (ii) Referring to the poem *Tithonus*, show how his immortality becomes a curse. [5]
Answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.

(Understanding)

- (a) Circumstances leading to Tithonus receiving a boon
- (b) Reasons for the boon becoming a curse
- (iii) (a) Analyse the comparison between death and sleep in the poem, *Death Be Not Proud*. How does this metaphor contribute to the overall message of the sonnet? Write your answer in about 200-250 words. [10]
(Analysis)

OR

- (b) The poem *Beethoven* explores the role of pain and suffering in the process of artistic creativity and excellence. Justify this statement in 200-250 words. [10]
(Evaluate)





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ANSWER KEY

SECTION A– 20 MARKS

Question 1

[10]

Candidates have to write either the correct option or the description / explanation against it. Please note that only ONE correct answer should be written.

- (i) (c) She pretends that Macbeth has an illness that is momentary.
- (ii) (b) He is terrified and loses control over himself.
- (iii) (d) He is suspicious of Macbeth's actions.
- (iv) (b) Only (P) and (Q)
- (v) (d) Statement I is the reason for Statement II.
- (vi) (a) Embracing one's cultural roots.
- (vii) (b) Wind
- (viii) (a) evoke a strong sense of repulsion and disgust.
- (ix) (d) To align it with the theme of music.
- (x) (c) As a mighty conqueror

Question 2

[10]

Candidates are required to answer the sub-parts briefly and not in detail. Please note that the answers provided below are suggestive and not limiting and exhaustive. Any other correct interpretation / reason will be accepted.

- (i) he seeks to know more of the prophecies / he is increasingly desperate and wants reassurance about his future / his ambition is fuelled / he wants to secure his reign.
- (ii) he was already burdened with guilt / spilled enough blood already / committed a spate of murders.

- (iii) she recognised signs of Macbeth’s troubled mind / she was afraid he would blurt out the truth / his erratic behaviour might expose them / he was making a fool of himself.
- (iv) it ensures that Banquo’s line could potentially survive, fulfilling the prophecy that Banquo’s descendants would inherit the throne.
- (v) they want to temper Charusashi’s wild nature. / she was their only daughter and so would be able to stay with them even after marriage.
- (vi) she drew from his vitality and enjoyed the transformation she experienced. / she was growing younger again by stealing his youth.
- (vii) the place was spooky and old dak bungalows had a reputation for being haunted.
- (viii) being judged on the basis of skin colour was ignorant / dehumanising / unfair / insulting.
- (ix) when the soul rises, it will walk towards the east toward heaven. / it was a ritual passed down from generation.
- (x) he was deaf and got down on his knees so that he could feel the vibrations through the floor.

SECTION B – 60 MARKS

MACBETH –WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The long answers given in this section outline the correct approach and specify the areas that the candidates must build their answers on. These answers are not limiting but only suggestive. Any other correct interpretation supported by textual evidence will be accepted.

Question 3

- (i) ***The guidelines have been specified in the question. Candidates have to develop their answers on the prompts given in the question. They are required to answer within the specified word limit.*** [5]
- (ii) ***Candidates must formulate their answers on the areas specified in the question.*** [5]
- (iii) (a) **Candidates are expected to elaborate on the following ideas:** [10]
 - Identify the “forces beyond his control.”
 - State whether the forces are merely the witches or his “Over vaulting ambition.”
 - Discuss the role of Macbeth’s soliloquies in brief to reflect the

battle within him.

- Discuss Macbeth's responsibility in reacting to the persuasion of Lady Macbeth and the witches.
- Contrast Macbeth with Banquo and Macduff.
- Judge what happens to Macbeth as a result of the battle within and without.

OR

(b) **Candidates will be expected to use the following approach to the question:** [10]

- Choose at least one example of each emotion.
- Explain Lady Macbeth's actions/ role/ words in the chosen scene.
- Explain why the respective scene arouses Sympathy or Admiration.
- Focus on how the feelings are aroused in the reader- through words, imagery, actions and so on.
- Suggest a plausible reason for such a portrayal.

PRISM- A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Question 4

(i) *The guidelines have been specified in the question. Candidates have to develop their answers on the prompts given in the question. They are required to answer within the specified word limit.* [5]

(ii) *Candidates must formulate their answers on the areas specified in the question within the prescribed word limit.* [5]

(iii) (a) **Candidates are required to focus on the following areas in their answers:** [10]

- Cite examples of Tarapada's love of freedom.
- Mention his interests and activities.
- Describe his attitude to his own family and mother.
- Describe his reaction to music, nature and ordinary people.
- Comment on his relationship with Charusashi.
- Interpret his return to the world of Nature at the conclusion of the story.

OR

(b) **Candidates are required to focus on the following areas in their answers.** [10]

- Discuss the portrayal of a dystopian world – almost post-apocalyptic
- Emphasise on the mechanical work of machinery/ robots effortlessly carrying out their duties, even the mice are mechanical.
- Describe the complete, chilling absence of human presence- the warmth, the fallible aspect of human existence.
- Things are done at their assigned time and assigned manner.
- Ironically, the house is preoccupied with Time- a human construct, in the absence of human beings.
- In the end, Nature prevails over technology.

RHAPSODY: POETRY

Question 5

(i) *The prompts have been specified in the question. Candidates have to develop their answers on those prompts within the specified word limit.* [5]

(ii) *Candidates must formulate their answers on the areas specified in the question within the prescribed word limit.* [5]

(iii) (a) **Candidates are required to build their answer on the following areas:** [10]

- Briefly explain how the poem is built on the common comparison of death and sleep.
- Use of words and imagery which underscores this similarity.
- Use of imagery to show that death is also weak and susceptible.
- How does eternal life after death negate the power of Death.
- Constant downscaling of the power and terror of Death
- Message that Death can be overcome and defeated.

OR

(b) **Candidates have to address the following areas in their answers:** [10]

- Cite the words or lines which emphasise Beethoven's suffering.
- Describe his anguish.
- Cite metaphors or imagery suggesting the connection between pain and artistic creativity.
- Describe how Beethoven overcame adversity.
- Provide evidence from the poem to describe the impact of his music on audiences.