

ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
ENGLISH PAPER 2 (LITERATURE IN ENGLISH)
(Prescribed Textbooks)

Maximum Marks: 40

Time allowed: One and a half hour

Candidates are allowed an additional 10 minutes for only reading the paper.

*They must **NOT** start writing during this time.*

*Answer **all** questions in **Section A** and **Section B**.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets. []

SECTION A – 8 MARKS

Question 1

Read the lines given below and answer the questions given after each:

(A) Iris: Of her society
Be not afraid. I met her deity
Cutting the clouds towards Paphos, and her son
Dove-drawn with her.

(i) Whom does Iris refer to as 'her'? [1]

- (a) Venus
- (b) Juno
- (c) Ceres
- (d) Sycorax

(ii) Why was the person addressed afraid of "her"? [1]

- (a) She used her beauty to get her desires.
- (b) She had conspired with Dis to abduct the person's daughter.
- (c) She was close to Zeus.
- (d) She used others for her ends.

- (iii) What is meant by “dove drawn”? [1]
- (a) A drawing of doves.
 - (b) Attracted by doves.
 - (c) The chariot was drawn by doves.
 - (d) Doves were drawn to him.
- (B) “But my darling, if you love me,” thought Miss Meadows, “I don’t Mind how much it is. Love me as little as you like.”
- (i) What had the “darling” informed Miss Meadows? [1]
- (a) That he loved her.
 - (b) That he could not go forward with their plans for marriage.
 - (c) That he was marrying someone else.
 - (d) That he was going away.
- (ii) Where was Miss Meadows as she thought these thoughts? [1]
- (a) In the music hall.
 - (b) In the corridor.
 - (c) At her window.
 - (d) In the Principal’s office.
- (iii) What was the effect of Basil’s letter on Miss Meadows? [1]
- (a) She was upset and agonized.
 - (b) She went into depression.
 - (c) She was struck dumb.
 - (d) She had a heart attack.
- (C) Sophocles long ago
Heard it on the Agean.....
- (i) Who is Sophocles? [1]
- (a) A Shakespearean character.
 - (b) The poet’s ancestor.
 - (c) A Victorian poet.
 - (d) A Greek tragedian

- (ii) What did he hear on the Aegean? [1]
- (a) The tremulous, sad note of the sea.
 - (b) The sound of gulls.
 - (c) The sound of human misery.
 - (d) The note of hope.

SECTION B (32 MARKS)

Answer the following questions as briefly as possible and with close reference to the relevant text.

Question 2

- (i) Referring closely to the conversation between Prospero and Ferdinand at the beginning of Act IV of *The Tempest*, bring out Prospero's concerns as a father. [4]
- (ii) How does Prospero prove, "the rarer action is in /virtue than in vengeance in the final act of *The Tempest*? [4]

Question 3

- (i) Referring closely to the short story, *The Sound Machine*, describe the encounter between Klausner and Mrs. Saunders. How did it affirm his belief in his own invention? [4]
- (ii) "Then paint the cut with iodine." With reference to this line, what is your understanding of Klausner? Do you sympathise with him? Give your reasons. [4]

Question 4

- (i) Referring closely to the short story, *The Singing Lesson* relate what Basil wrote in his letter to Miss Meadows. What do you conclude about Basil from the tone and wording of the letter? [4]
- (ii) Referring closely to the short story, *B. Wordsworth* relate two important lessons that the young narrator learnt from his friend, B. Wordsworth. How were these lessons relevant? [4]

Question 5

- (i) Referring closely to the poem, *We are the Music Makers*, refer to any two examples given by the poet which identify poets and singers as "movers and shakers." [4]
- (ii) Discuss how in the poem *Dover Beach* the poet, Mathew Arnold, reposes faith in love as a beam of hope amidst the surrounding despair. [4]

Section-A

Answer 1.

- (A) (i) (a) Venus
(ii) (b) She had conspired with Dis to abduct the person's daughter
(iii)(c) The chariot was drawn by doves
- (B) (i) (b) That he could not go forward with their plans for marriage
(ii) (a) In the music hall
(iii)(a) She was upset and agonised
- (C) (i) (d) A Greek tragedian
(ii) (a) The tremulous, sad note of the sea

Section-B

Answer 2.

- (i) Prospero's conversation with Ferdinand brings out his fatherly concerns. Like any dotting parent, he wants to ensure that his daughter is married to a deserving person. He first furnishes the reasons why he made Ferdinand go through labour and insults. It was a test of the young man's mental strength as well as his steadfastness to his would- be wife. Prospero's love for his daughter is evident in the way he praises her. He refers to her as 'third of mine own life/ Or that for which I live.' Then he proudly tells Ferdinand to 'ratify this my rich gift'. However, the protective father in him strictly warns the young prince against breaking her 'virgin knot' before all sanctimonious ceremonies and holy rite be minister'd". Then he draws a scary picture of dire consequences such as 'barren hate and sour eyed disdain and discord will bestrew the union of your bed". Ferdinand is so affected by his words that he gives his solemn promise to abide by these fatherly injunctions.
- (ii) Prospero wants to teach a lesson to his enemies, but his way provides an example of humanity towards his enemies. True, like any other wronged person, he has a strong reason to bear a grudge against his conspirators who had tried to wreck his and his daughter's life. For this, he makes them go through physical and mental agony; but not a single person gets killed. As days progress, he becomes spiritually exalted and refrains from extreme measures. He tries to affect a mental transformation in them by taking them on a trip of introspection and self-analysis. With the help of Ariel, he causes a shipwreck, isolates them in batches, and frightens them. Towards the end, he forgives all of them and in this very act he embodies divinity and proves that rarer action is in virtue not in vengeance.

Answer 3.

- (i) Klausner, the eccentric inventor of Sound Machine, wants to test his theory of ultrasonic sounds. For this, he takes his machine to the front yard. He casually glances at Mrs Saunders, his neighbour, who is cutting roses for her floral arrangement. To his surprise, he hears a scream and looks around for its source. He sees only Saunders. Then when she cuts another flower, he hears a similar sound which convinces him that his machine is picking up vibrations above human hearing. Just to confirm his discovery, he calls out to the lady and asks her to cut one more flower. As she sceptically obliges him, he distinctly hears the sad piercing sound. Then he agitatedly tells the lady that she is causing infinite pain to the flowering plants. The lady is convinced that this funny man is mad and hastily disappears into the safety of her house. However, Klausner is nearer to the culmination of his experiment.

- (ii) Klausner is a scientist with a soft heart for the green environment. His machine enables him to listen to the sounds of creatures around him like the flies, bats and plants. He gets a proof of his theory from the flowers cut by Mrs Saunders. It terrifies him at first as he feels humans cause immeasurable pain to the so called 'mute' creatures, but logic sets in as he rationalises that the feeling they have may be something above human understanding. Then he cuts a beech tree in front of his doctor friend. As the axe makes the contact, he hears the roar of the tree and feels the roots protesting. The huge branch falls on the machine, breaking it in smithereens, but the cry of the tree echoes in his ears. He feels its pain and insists the doctor applies iodine on its wounds to heal. This reveals that he is empathetic towards Nature, that he is soft hearted, but the scientist in him may prompt him to rationalise and try again.

Answer 4.

- (i) Basil, the lover of Miss Meadows, comes across as rather a dry, insensitive young man in the way he has penned his 'cold note'. He simply writes, while he 'loves her as much as he could love any woman', he is not the marrying kind and feels their marriage will be a mistake. He does not show much sensitivity to fully erase the word 'disgust' before writing 'regret', and this cuts her to the core. The letter is also a validation of his immature state of mind. He is unsure of his feelings towards her. We are told, he is handsome and is aware of it; she is much older than him and a surprising match. So, it can be surmised that it may be a marriage of convenience for him, primarily to live up the social expectations. This may be the reason that no tender feelings or words of apology are there in the letter. It is prosaic and almost rude, as though he does not care for her feelings. Thus, he comes across as a selfish and self-centred person, prone to take Meadows for granted.
- (ii) 'B. Wordsworth' is a thought-provoking story that imparts profound lessons of life and leisure. The rare insight derived from the story changes one's outlook towards people, places and life in general. The narrator boy first comes under the influence of the poet protagonist when he comes to watch bees in his front yard. Later on, the poet helps his young friend recover from his bruised body and ego by encouraging him to watch the night sky and forget his worries. Thus, the boy learns to delight in everyday experiences, suggesting the necessity of 'a fresh pair of eyes to soak in the wonders of the natural world'. Secondly, the poet tries to convince the boy of the bitter truth that poets and their sensibilities are not intrinsically valued in this materialistic world. In fact, they are considered as mere time-wasters fit only to be kept at a distance. Most of them do not attain worldly success and struggle to eke out a living. The gallant poet negates all he said to discourage the boy from emulating him.

Answer 5.

- (i) 'We are the Music Makers' is a delightful poem highlighting the importance of artists. The poet encourages all to dream like artists who shape new worlds using their imagination and vision. They play the role of the predictors as well as the creators of glorious new futures. In other words, they are "the movers and shakers" of history. Thus, they connect art to human progress. Two striking examples are given by the poet to show how they justify these titles. Immortal songs created by the artists' souls are capable of building and rebuilding new cities, and new civilisations by instilling progressive thoughts, realisations and transformation in people's mind. Similarly, out of a fantastic myth, they can mould or recreate a glorious empire. Proudly, they can proclaim that in the past they, "Built Nineveh with our sighing,/And Babel itself with our mirth;" It is ultimately the poems, stories, paintings and other forms of art that define the glory of a civilisation. In fact, it is the artistic achievements of an empire that marks its greatness. By inspiring to build and rebuild, these movers and shakers shape the present and the future.
- (ii) The poem 'Dover Beach' by Mathew Arnold examines religious faith being undermined by scientific research and intellectual inquiry. He feels unquestioning faith in Christianity is diminishing, unable to withstand the surging tide of scientific discovery. Gripped with a sense of alienation, doubt, and resultant melancholy, the world requires a solution and that, according to the poet, is faith in love and hope amidst the surrounding despair. Sophocles had heard, "the eternal note of sadness", witnessing the fall of faith in the classical Greek Gods; the same possibility looms ahead for Christian God. He laments that faith once made the world "full" and "bright"; it offered comfort and joy. Its loss lead to "melancholy." "Sea of Faith" once spread across the entire world, which is now "withdrawing." This global loss will herald "confused alarms of struggle and flight," and "ignorant armies clash[ing] by night.". With religion losing its grip and causing a crisis of spiritual faith, the speaker feels only love is an answer for the loss of God. "Ah, love, let us be true to one another!" This suggests that love for one another may compensate for the loss of the connection between God and mankind.