

ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SAMPLE PAPER - 2
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.



Section-A

Question 1.

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

(A) What is this maid with whom thou wast at play?

Your eld'st acquaintance cannot be three hours.

Is she the goddess that hath sever'd us,

And brought us thus together?

(i) Who is the speaker?

(a) Prospero

(b) Alonso

(c) Caliban

(d) Ferdinand

(ii) Who is referred to as the maid here?

(a) Miranda

(c) Ferdinand's mother

(b) A female servant

(d) A witch

(iii) What is the meaning of "sever'd us and brought us thus together"?

(a) To bring them together for the game of chess

(b) To bring them together after a long separation

(c) To make them enemies

(d) To hurt them

(B) With despair—cold, sharp despair—buried deep in her heart like wicked knife, Miss Meadows, in cap and gown and carrying a little baton, trod the cold corridors that led to the music hall.

In reference to the above lines answer the following questions:

(i) Miss Meadows, a music teacher, can be described as an:

(a) Introvert

(c) Emotionally sensitive

(b) Insecure

(d) All of these

(ii) 'trod the cold corridors', what does this verbal phrase imply?

(a) To walk fast in the corridors in winter

(b) To walk briskly through the corridors where no one could feel the surge of emotions that racked her

- (c) Neither (a) nor (b)
 (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iii) In the sentence the word 'knife' has been used. Identify the figure of speech used in this word.
 (a) Simile (b) Oxymoron (c) Imagery (d) Metaphor
- (C)** Upon the straights; on the French coast the light
 Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
 Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.
- (i) Which literary technique best describes the technique used by Matthew Arnold in the first line of the extract?
 (a) Enjambment only
 (b) Imagery only
 (c) Enjambment as a poetic technique and imagery as a figure of speech
 (d) Either (a) or (b)
- (ii) What can best explain the phrase 'with tremulous cadence show'?
 (a) Slow rhythmic movement
 (b) Slow rhythm in the sound of waves
 (c) The grating sound of pebbles in slow rhythm under the waves
 (d) All of the above

Section-B

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

Question 2.

- (i) What is Prospero's reaction when Alonso tries to apologise to Miranda for sending her and her father away?
 (ii) Explain how *The Tempest* has the elements of comedy, tragedy and romance.

Question 3.

- (i) In the story *B. Wordsworth* briefly explain the unusual friendship shared by the child and B. Wordsworth.
 (ii) With reference to the short story, *B. Wordsworth*, answer what the greatest poem of the world was all about?

Question 4.

- (i) 'With despair, cold sharp despair...' What does the opening line reveal about the mood and setting of the story, *The Singing Lesson*?
 (ii) Who is the 'strange patient' according to the story, *The Sound Machine*? How does the author describe the "strange patient"?

Question 5.

- (i) With reference to the poem, *We are the Music Makers*, explain 'diversity' as the theme of the poem.
 (ii) Analyse the poem, *Dover Beach* and discuss how the loss of faith (during his times) affects the poet and his thought.



Section-A

Answer 1.

- (A)** (i) (b) Alonso
 (ii) (a) Miranda
 (iii) (b) To bring them together after a long separation
- (B)** (i) (d) All of these
 (ii) (d) Both (a) and (b)
 (iii) (d) Metaphor
- (C)** (i) (c) Enjambment as a poetic technique and imagery as a figure of speech
 (ii) (d) All of the above

Section-B

Answer 2.

- (i) Prospero has almost succeeded in bringing all his adversaries to their knees. Alonso is the only person who apologises for his wrongdoing and when he does so, Prospero stops him from doing so. Prospero's purpose in staging the storm and the incidents thereafter and everything that he had desired has happened successfully and he is now a contented and pleased man. He does not want to mar the special occasion that has culminated after all the struggle. Alonso is ecstatic at the discovery. Meanwhile, the sight of more human beings impress Miranda. Alonso embraces his son and daughter-in-law and begs Miranda's forgiveness for the treacheries she had to undergo twelve years ago. Prospero silences Alonso's apologies, insisting that the reconciliation is complete. The reconciliation brings about joy and hope for new beginnings.
- (ii) 'The Tempest' is Shakespeare's last glitzy and shortest play. It is difficult to categorise this play, as it has elements of romance, tragedy and comedy. The tragic elements arise from the usurpation of the play's protagonist, Prospero and his daughter. The vengeance of Prospero and the plotting of murder interlaced quite neatly into the play. Romantic elements come from the love shared between Miranda and Ferdinand. Scenes of comedy between Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo add a comic element to the play.

Ariel also does his part in making the story light-hearted. Ariel is a spirit who is an asset of Prospero. He is many a time seen messing with Caliban. The union of Caliban, Trinculo, and Stephano also elicits laughter with their comic acts and speeches. Stephano a drunk, who upon discovering Trinculo and Caliban under the cloak, mistakes them for a four-legged animal, while Trinculo thinks Caliban to be some strange fish. Caliban, in drunken state, thinks Stephano to be a god and promises to serve him which then brings in more comedy as the play moves further. Ariel also plays with them by fooling them with his magic in order to distract them from their plot. Shakespeare's play is a comedy, and even a romance. The two lovers in this story, Miranda and Ferdinand, often make jokes about being in love. Ferdinand falls in love with the beautiful lady Miranda. Prospero, wanting to test Ferdinand's love, makes him do hard work as a trial to marry Miranda. Even though Miranda insists on getting Ferdinand to take a break, even to the point of asking to do the work for him, Ferdinand refuses to stop his vigorous work. Prospero, finally allows Ferdinand to marry Miranda.

At the end of the play, the wrongdoers are forgiven. Ferdinand and Miranda are seen playing a casual game of chess. After this, they are officially united in marriage. The tempest holds the comic, tragic and romantic elements in making it an interesting and intriguing play.

Answer 3.

- (i) V.S. Naipaul's short story, 'B. Wordsworth', is a narrative about a young boy and his friendship with the poet B. Wordsworth. Naipaul allows his readers to embark on a journey with the narrator to enjoy the beauty of life and also get acquainted with life's bitter truths and harsh realities through an unusual friendship at the core. The boy befriended the poet during one of his visits to his yard, hoping to watch the bees and admire the unhindered beauty in nature. He is fascinated with the poet's ideas and so are the readers. It's whimsical, yet sweet and appealing. The boy finds in the poet an eye for beauty that he had never seen in anyone before. He was intrigued and curious, and this led to the beginning of their friendship, wanting to know more and more about the poet and his ideologies.

The poet compels the boy to look for a poet within him, the readers too, embark on a journey to look for the hidden poet within them, forming an inexplicable bond with him. This is an unusual friendship that allows the boy to mature and perceive life through the eyes of beauty. While the poet nudges him to look for beauty, his experiences and the thought-provoking nature of the boy gravitate into a finer understanding of the ways of the real world.

- (ii) B. Wordsworth, during his walks with the little boy, revealed to him the secret of writing the greatest poem of the world. The greatest poem of the world is invariably different from what he had been working upon till now. This poem is deep and holds the maximum attention and hard work of the poet to ensure it's a success, unlike his other writing ventures. Wordsworth wants this poem to strike a chord with his readers that none others could do. Therefore, he writes only one line in a month, even at the

cost of completing his poem in the next twenty two years. Wordsworth wants to ensure that his poem, surpasses not only his expectations, but also of his readers.' Thus, in one line that he writes each month, he infuses all the experiences of that month. He works fervently to create the masterpiece of a poem only to never complete it.

Answer 4.

- (i) Mansfield sets the beginning of her story in "cold corridors" that clearly indicates the coldness within Miss Meadows. Her cold feelings and emotional turmoil have imprisoned her into a state of confusion, with only bitterness for people she comes into contact with. The narrative begins on a whirlwind of emotions and sensations only to be dismantled in the next few lines with no concrete actions. Thus, the words used by Mansfield add vigour to the story and give out the exact state of mind that Miss Meadows is in. "With despair – cold, sharp despair..." these words bring out the tension in the atmosphere as well as the internal conflict and tension within Miss Meadows. The sombre mood is heightened by the use of simile, "buried deep in her heart like a wicked knife". It shows the cold attitude of Miss Meadows and her mental condition in which she could be driven to do anything; even kill someone. The time of the year when the story is based is autumn; another symbol used to highlight the coldness. The setting, atmosphere and environment in Mansfield's story bring out the psychological happenings in the character.
- (ii) The 'strange patient' is Klausner. He is described by the author as a, "small, frail man, nervous and twitchy with always moving hands." He had a large head that was inclined towards its left shoulder as though his neck was not sturdy enough to support his head rigidly. Klausner had a pale, almost white, smooth face, pale grey eyes that were covered behind steel spectacles. His eyes mirrored his emotions truly and were often bewildered, unfocused and remote while working on his innovative sound machine. He was a twitchy little moth of a man, full of dreams. He was obsessed with a perspective of his own. He was distracted yet extremely passionate about his idea. He worked deftly and swiftly to ensure his innovation was a success. However, one could remarkably notice an immense sense of distance between his body and mind at work which showed his lack of confidence and insecurity.

Answer 5.

- (i) The theme of 'We are the Music Makers' is diversity. There are certain similarities in every music maker – to entertain the world. O'Shaughnessy in the poem, tells how similar yet different can the entertainers be. However, their motive is the same, which is to bring joy to the world but the methods of doing so are very different.
There is diversity in the processes and achievements of every music maker, for they work in different fields with different methods and people. They live in separate times and create diversity in every time period – the past, the present and the future.
The music makers or the 'dreamers of dreams' strive to make the world a better place and achieve greatness. Deep inside the similarities lay their diverse thoughts and contributions to the world which have been able to entertain people.
- (ii) The lines from the poem, 'Dover Beach' give a bitter expression of the poet, Matthew Arnold's loss of faith and his growing pessimism. To him, the world seemed to be unbelievably unreal, without anything to believe in or to relate to. It has grand variety, beauty and freshness. But in spite of all this, there is a big void due to the absence of the primary elements of life. There is no love nor joy, nor light, nor peace. There is no certainty in it. Therefore, he compares men struggling in the world with armies struggling on a plain at night. There is a sound of confused alarms and struggles, but the soldiers are ignorant as to what they are fighting for and why.
'Dover Beach' is one of Arnold's typical poems. It expresses frequently the lack of faith and certitude, which was the principal vice during the Victorian age. The poem opens with a calm, bright moonlit sea, which reflects the serene, peaceful, receptive mood of the poet. He calls upon his companion to share the sweetness and peacefulness of the night air, and even as he does so, he is conscious of 'the grating roar' a harsh sound which disturbs the peace, the calm and the sweet music. The first stanza ends on a 'note of eternal sadness', that 'still sad music of humanity' disturbs the calmness of mind and spirit as much as the calm bay. In the poet's opinion, all the restlessness and disturbance is due to the absence of faith.