

ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SAMPLE PAPER - 1
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) *Ferdinand:* This is a most majestic vision, and
Harmonious charmingly. May I be bold
To think these spirits?

Prospero: Spirits, which by mine art
I have from their confines called to enact
My present fancies.

- (i) What majestic vision is being referred to?
 - (a) The potent magic of Prospero
 - (b) The vision of goddesses Iris, Ceres and Juno singing and blessing the auspicious union of the couple
 - (c) The beauty of Prospero's daughter
 - (d) None of the above
- (ii) Which important job Prospero recalls that he has forgotten while the celebrations were in progress?
 - (a) To call in the king of Naples to join the celebrations
 - (b) To foil Caliban's conspiracy to kill him
 - (c) To give his trusted spirit, Ariel to help him arrange for a ship to go back to Milan
 - (d) None of the above
- (iii) With whom has Caliban conspired to kill Prospero?
 - (a) Stephano and Trinculo
 - (b) Antonio and Stephano
 - (c) Alphonso and Sycorax
 - (d) None of these

(B) The little needle crept slowly across the dial, and suddenly he heard a shriek, a frightful piercing shriek, and he jumped and dropped his hands, catching hold of the edge of the table. He stared around him as if expecting to see the person who had shrieked. There was no one in sight except the women in the garden next door, and it was certainly not she. She was bending down, cutting yellow roses and putting them in her basket.

- (i) Where do you think the shriek came from?
 - (a) It was a sudden crackling sound from the machine that he heard on full volume
 - (b) Someone he could not see, might have shrieked in pain
 - (c) It was the shriek of the yellow roses that the old woman was plucking in the garden
 - (d) None of the above
- (ii) What is the quality of the shriek?
 - (a) Audible
 - (b) Infrasonic
 - (c) Unknown high-pitched
 - (d) Ultrasonic
- (iii) With reference to the paragraph that follows this one, what is not the tonal quality of the shriek that Klausner heard?
 - (a) Throatless
 - (b) Sharp and short
 - (c) Humanlike shriek
 - (d) Clear and cold

(C) We are the music-makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers
And sitting by desolate streams.

- (i) What do the lines 'wandering by lone sea-breakers/And sitting by desolate streams' refer to?
 - (a) It refers to the tremendous effort required by artists to stay true to their art while creating incomparable works of art
 - (b) It refers to the difficult life of solitude and the possibility of their works not getting recognition in their lifetime
 - (c) Neither (a) nor (b)
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (ii) In what way are the artists 'dreamers of dreams'?
 - (a) They create harmony and sweetness
 - (b) They create a rich variety of craftsmanship that the world remembers forever
 - (c) It is their creative excellence that lays an inspiration to further experiment with new ideas
 - (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) Discuss the Masque that Prospero sets up for Miranda and Ferdinand's wedding and why does he remove it?
- (ii) How does Prospero treat Ariel towards the end of the play and why do you think so?

Question 3.

- (i) With reference to the story, *The Sound Machine*, explain what made the doctor intrigued and inquisitive? What explanation did the "strange patient" offer to satisfy the curious mind of the doctor?
- (ii) Why did Klausner call the doctor hurriedly? Why did he come immediately? What does this reveal to the readers about their relationship?

Question 4.

- (i) Referring to the story, *B. Wordsworth*, describe what story did the poet narrate to the child? What was its significance?
- (ii) With close reference to the short story, *The Singing Lesson*, describe how the lesson as it progresses, becomes an echo of Miss Meadows' feelings.

Question 5.

- (i) Analyse the poem, *We Are the Music Makers* and expand on the appeal that the poet has made to the artists of the world. What do the lines, 'Wandering by lone sea-breakers/And sitting by desolate streams' refer to?
- (ii) Refer to the poem *Dover Beach* and relate how the reflections of the poet seem to be a philosophical discussion on "eternal note of sadness."



Answers

Section-A

Answer 1.

- (A) (i) (b) The vision of goddesses Iris, Ceres and Juno singing and blessing the auspicious union of the couple
(ii) (b) To foil Caliban's conspiracy to kill him
(iii) (a) Stephano and Trinculo
- (B) (i) (c) It was the shriek of the yellow roses that the old woman was plucking in the garden
(ii) (d) Ultrasonic
(iii) (c) Humanlike shriek
- (C) (i) (d) Both (a) and (b)
(ii) (d) All of the above

Section-B

Answer 2.

- (i) Prospero gives his blessing to Ferdinand and Miranda, warning Ferdinand that he should take care to not break Miranda's "virgin-knot" before the wedding has been solemnised. Ferdinand promises to comply. Prospero then calls in Ariel and asks him to summon spirits to perform a masque for Ferdinand and Miranda. Soon, three spirits appear in the shapes of the mythological figures of Iris (Juno's messenger and the Goddess of the rainbow), Juno (queen of the Gods), and Ceres (Goddess of agriculture). This trio performs a masque celebrating the lovers' engagement. First, Iris enters and asks Ceres to appear at Juno's wish, to celebrate "a contract of true love." Ceres appears, and then Juno enters. Juno and Ceres together bless the couple, with Juno wishing them honour and riches, and Ceres wishing them natural prosperity. Juno and Ceres send Iris to fetch some nymphs and reappears to perform a country dance. Just as this dance begins, Prospero sends the spirits away. Prospero, who had forgotten about Caliban's plot against him, suddenly remembers that the hour nearly has come for Caliban and the conspirators to make their attempt on his life.

Prospero's apparent anger alarms Ferdinand and Miranda, but he assures the young couple that his consternation is largely a result of his age; he says that a walk will soothe him. He makes a short speech about the masque, saying that the world itself is as insubstantial as a play, and that human beings are "such stuff/As dreams are made on."

- (ii) Towards the end of the play, Prospero seems to be more cordial with Ariel, appreciating him and requesting him to complete just one more task before he is set free. It is understood that Prospero is glad that all his plans have come to fruition and he has everything and everyone in place because Ariel and the other spirits have obeyed him. He is well aware that without Ariel's help he would not have been able to achieve all that he has and Ariel has been quite congenial in spite of Prospero's frequent lashings at him.

Ariel, though very eager to be set free, waits for his time to come and keeps reminding Prospero of the 'sixth hour' getting over and that he had done his best in all tasks. Prospero is extremely glad that he has been able to accomplish all that he ever wanted, is willing to relinquish his 'power play,' and finally releases Ariel from the bondage.

Answer 3.

- (i) The doctor is intrigued by a black box which was of the size of a coffin and almost three feet long. The top of the box was open and displayed the numerous colourful wires and silver tubes inside it. The sheer complexity of the box intrigued the doctor to know more about it. To add to the doctor's curiosity was his strange patient, who was caught up so excitedly with the box that he behaved rather strangely.

His deft handling of the innards of the box, his enthusiasm and rapt attention had made the doctor inquisitive about what he was up to.

The patient's attempt was to innovate a sound machine that would allow humans to hear the high-pitched voices otherwise inaudible to the human ear. The "strange patient" offered to satisfy the curious mind of the doctor by explaining the entire theory behind his innovation of the sound machine.

Klausner explained that the human ear is incapable of hearing certain high-pitched and low-pitched sounds, in particular the notes with more than fifteen thousand vibrations a second. According to him, there is a whole world of sound that humans cannot hear due to the high frequency of notes emitted. There is a whole gamut of exciting music, with subtle harmonies and grinding discords missed out by humans due to their sheer incapacity of hearing these sounds. The strange patient is eager to tap on the unheard powerful music produced with its sound machine that would enable people to hear these unheard sounds which would ideally drive them mad if they were to hear it with their ears.

- (ii) Klausner, during his experiment with the sound machine in the park at the wee hours, is convinced that he had a breakthrough with his invention. He heard a loud shriek from the tree which sounded like "a harsh, noteless, enormous noise, a growling, low-pitched, screaming sound." Klausner, though convinced himself about the success of his machine, wanted to apprise his friend, the doctor to validate the same that he had heard. Therefore, he calls him up hurriedly to be a part of this experiment.

The doctor receives the phone immediately, as he was attuned to people calling him at any hour for his help. He is amazed at Klausner's obsession for the sound machine and his belief in experiment. However, his tone at that hour in the morning sounded like a desperate cry for help, almost as if it was an emergency case. The doctor came immediately because he saw a friend in Klausner. However, unbelievable did the experiment sound, the doctor was curious to know more on this matter.

The doctor and Klausner shared a friendship that went beyond his professional realm. He is loyal and stands by his friend throughout despite being unconvinced of his invention or the theory. His concern for Klausner is palpable in his conversation with him. He cares for him and makes those extra efforts to enquire about his health even when there is no need. He also tries his level best to avoid the truth of the sound he heard to ensure Klausner is not disappointed, but fails.

Answer 4.

- (i) The child and the poet became friends over the period and he visited the poet's house regularly to meet him. During one such visit, the poet narrated to the boy, a story about a girl and a boy who were lovers and their love culminated into a happy marriage. Both were poets, while the boy loved words, the girl loved to watch the flowers and the trees in the garden. They lived in a house with just one room, but were contented with the life they were living. Soon, the girl announced the arrival of their baby in the house but unfortunately, it died in her womb. The girl too died leaving the boy sad and fuming over his life and destiny. He refused to pay attention to the girl's garden which resulted in a heavy and wild growth of the plants.

This story is significant as the poet narrated his own story to the child. Though he never accepted the fact, but the boy did understand the feelings and the heart with which the poet conveyed the story. He presented his own life in a nutshell. The death of his wife had created a vacuum in his life and rendered him wordless and poetryless. He saw no meaning in the beauty of life and continued to live for the sake of it. The same applied to his poetry. The love that he poured in the words went away with his wife's death. Thus, the poet, though wished to write the greatest poem of the world, his incapacity to feel the love without the inspiration of his wife had rendered him useless.

- (ii) Miss Meadows sways through a gamut of emotions and that too quickly throughout the plot. We can see it when Miss Meadows asks the girls to sing a 'lament'. 'Every note was a sigh, a sob, a groan of awful mournfulness.' This line is noteworthy in numerous ways, the girl's reaction to the song echoes what Miss Meadows is going through.

Just as Miss Meadows is feeling melancholic, by selecting a lament and asking her class to belt it out, Miss Meadows seems to be transferring her own despondency to upset the girls in her singing class.

During her lesson, she's informed by another colleague that Basil, her fiancé, has sent a telegram for her. To this, she says, "I hope it's not a bad news". But to her surprise, when she reads the letter, she

finds that Basil had asked her to ignore the first letter and that he had bought the hat-stand which they had been thinking of lately, indicating that their engagement is happening, "On the wings of hope, of love, of joy", she returns to her class and says to her students, "Don't look so doleful girls, it ought to be warm, joyful and eager." She asks them to sing a happy song one of felicitations. She also urges her students to imagine, 'flowers o'erladen; baskets of fruit and ribbons to boot.'

Miss Meadow's voice sung the loudest of all the voices, glowing with expression. Just the way she had transferred her feelings to the girls and made them feel miserable by singing something that echoed her feelings, she now asked them to sing something lighter and happier reflecting her blissful thoughts.

Answer 5.

- (i) In the poem, 'We Are the Music Makers', the poet emphasises on the importance of artists and the art that they create. The poet mentions the tremendous efforts required of the artists in order to stay true to their art and bring out incomparable works of art. The poem makes a straightforward appeal to the artists across different realms. It calls them, 'the music-makers', and 'dreamers of dreams'. Since it avoids mention of a particular art form, it applies equally to all artists across the globe, across different segments and, thus has a massive appeal. The poet is directly addressing the artists telling them not to be discomforted by the difficult times and cold treatment of people meted out to them. He encourages them to keep on working and creating great pieces of art because even though they and their critics may die, their art will continue to live on, keeping them alive in the memory of the coming generations.

In the lines, 'Wandering by lone sea-breakers, and sitting by desolate streams,' the poet describes that the artists cut themselves away from the society and live lives of loneliness and solitude in order to ponder over the truth of life. They wander alone by sea-breakers, and sit by the desolate streams and other strange places. The poet tries to focus on the desolation of spirits of these artists, the emptiness in the world according to them and an ache in their hearts that actually shapes up their creativity, which is worth admiration and praise.

- (ii) The poet reflects on the atmosphere around him, as he is admiring the beach and the seaside. At the beach, there is an incessant low moving-backward-and-forward-sound. According to the poet, this is the sound of the eternal note of sadness in human life. Arnold notes how the pebbles of the sea, rolled by the sea waves, bring into the mind the "eternal note of sadness." Referring to history, he points out that in ancient times, Sophocles had heard a similar sound of the pebbles on the shore, which reminded him of the ebb and flow of human misery. In his 'Antigone,' Sophocles had explicitly expressed this thought. So, as Arnold hears the same sound at Dover Beach, he finds himself thinking the same.

Being a deeply religious person, the poet explains the slow loss of man's faith in a wonderfully suggestive simile. He compares faith in religion to a sea that surrounds the world. The sea has its full tide, and then it ebbs away with the mournful music over the pebbles and the shaping of the pebbles bring the 'eternal note of sadness'. The poet thinks about the past world where there were men who had faith and belief in religion. But now, that faith is gradually passing away. The passing of faith causes the minds to be lost on the border between belief and disbelief. It is a sad heart-wrenching situation. When the poet hears the grating roar of pebbles of the sea, he is reminded of the 'melancholy, long, withdrawing roar' of faith as it retreats from the hearts and minds of men.

In the second stanza, the poet effectively uses a metaphor where the ebb and flow of human misery is compared to the tides of the sea. The fortunes of Oedipus are like the ebb and flow of the sea sand and the retreating tide is a symbol of the loss of faith. It gives the effect that as science and modern concepts are approaching the world, it is losing its religiousness and spirituality. Arnold implies that the sound of the waves suggest the eternal note of sadness in human life.

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