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ICSE 2009 : English Paper 2 (Literature in English)

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ENGLISH (PAPER-2)

Literature in English

(Two hours)

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question Paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt five questions in all.

You must attempt one question from each of the Sections A, B and C and any two other questions.

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

SECTION - A (DRAMA)

(Shakespeare : Julius Caesar)

Question 1.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Calphurnia : When beggars die there are no comets seen ;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

Caesar : Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.

- (i) Where are the speakers now ? Who enters immediately after this extract and what news does he bring ? [3]
- (ii) What provokes Calphurnia to say,
"When beggars die there are no comets seen ;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes." [3]
- (iii) Later in this scene Caesar shares Calphurnia's dream with Decius. Describe her dream. [3]
- (iv) How does Decius interpret Calphurnia's dream ? [3]
- (v) What strange things have been seen by the night watchman ? [4]

Question 2.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Antony : Will you be patient ? Will you stay awhile ?
I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it.
I fear I wrong the honourable men
Whose daggers have stabb'd Caesar: I do fear it.

- (i) Who is Antony addressing ? What are his reasons for delivering this speech ?
What is the term used for this type of speech ? [3]
- (ii) State three arguments put forward earlier by Antony to prove that Caesar was not ambitious. [3]
- (iii) Give any three character traits of the general public that are revealed in this and the next scene. [3]

- (iv) Later in this scene Antony reads a document. What is this document ? State any two clauses of this document. [3]
- (v) Who delivers a speech from the pulpit before Antony ? How does this speaker justify his role in the conspiracy ? [4]

The Winslow Boy : Terence Rattigan

Question 3.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Arthur : Once more, madam - this is *not* almost any case -

Miss Barnes : No, no. Of course not. Well, now, perhaps you wouldn't mind giving me a few details. When did it all start?

Arthur : Nine months ago. The first I knew of the charge was when my son arrived home with a letter from the Admiralty informing me of his expulsion. I telephoned Osborne to protest and was referred by them to the Lords of the Admiralty...

- (i) What newspaper does Miss Barnes work for ? Why has her newspaper sent a lady reporter ? Who else has come along with her ? [3]
- (ii) Describe Arthur's reaction to Miss Barnes calling the case a 'little' one. What do you learn of his feelings from this statement, "this is not almost any case" ? [3]
- (iii) Who is Arthur's son and where was he studying ? Why has he been expelled from the college ? What did he first wish to do with his expulsion letter ? [3]
- (iv) Why does Arthur say that his son was found guilty again ? Who had conducted that enquiry ? Why according to Arthur was it an unfair enquiry ? [3]
- (v) What is Arthur prepared to fight against ? Whom is he going to employ to fight his son's case ? Do you think he is right in his decision to employ the person ? Give reasons to justify your answer. [4]

Question 4.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Desmond : There is much more that I had meant to say, but I shall put it in a letter.

Catherine : Yes, Desmond. Do.

Desmond : Then I may expect your answer in a few days.

Catherine : Yes, Desmond.

Desmond : (*looking at his watch*) I must go back to court. (*He collects his hat, stick and gloves*) How do you think it went this morning ?

- (i) What is the issue being discussed between Catherine and Desmond ? Which two facts had he mentioned to Catherine, just a short while ago ? [3]
- (ii) Why has he come with the proposal even before the Court's verdict ? Give two reasons. [3]
- (iii) What happened in the Court that morning ? [3]
- (iv) At this point Desmond informs Catherine of Sir Robert Morton's great sacrifice. What is the sacrifice ? What does it reveal about Sir Morton ? [3]
- (v) What kind of relation does Catherine have with John Watherstone at this time ? [4]

SECTION - B (POETRY)

(*Whispers of Immortality*)

Question 5.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

"Leading on my fierce companions," cried he, "over storm and brine.

I have fought and I have conquered! Where was glory like to mine ?”

Loudly all the courtiers echoed: “Where is glory like to thine ?”

(*King Canute by William Makepeace Thackeray*)

- (i) Who is the ‘he’ referred to in the first line of the extract ? Where is ‘he’ at present and who else has accompanied ‘him’ here ? [3]
- (ii) For how many years has he ‘fought and conquered’ ? What mood is ‘he’ in at present ? What two things indicate that ‘he’ was not his usual self that day ? [3]
- (iii) Give three examples to show that the king’s followers flattered him. [3]
- (iv) What did the Jewish captain do that he tries to experiment with ? What happens as a result ? [3]
- (v) What is the king’s strict advice to his courtiers at the end of the poem ? [4]

Question 6.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

“I sift the snow on the mountains below,
And their great pines groan aghast,
And all the night ‘tis my pillow white
While I sleep in the arms of the blast.”

(*The Cloud by Percy Bysshe Shelley*)

- (i) Who is the speaker of these lines ? What are its functions as revealed in the first stanza of the poem ? [3]
- (ii) In your own words explain the meaning of the first two lines of the extract. What figure of speech does the poet use here ? [3]
- (iii) Thunder and lightning are mentioned in the lines immediately following this extract. What is said about them and in what way are they connected to the speaker ? [3]
- (iv) How does the speaker explain its own immortality ? [3]
- (v) Give two examples from the poem which bring out clearly the poet’s vivid description of nature using imagery. (Do not repeat answers from questions (i) - (iv).) [4]

SECTION – C (PROSE)

(*An Anthology of Short Stories*)

Question 7.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Jimmy Valentine put on his coat, and walked outside the railings towards the front door. As he went he thought he heard a far-away voice that he once knew call “Ralph!” But he never hesitated.

At the door a big man stood somewhat in his way.

‘Hello, Ben!’ said Jimmy, still with his strange smile. ‘Got around at last, have you ? Well let’s go. I don’t know that it makes much difference, now.’

And then Ben Price acted rather strangely.

- (i) Where had Jimmy Valentine planned to go that morning ? Why ? Who calls him Ralph ? [3]
- (ii) How long does Jimmy take to open the safe ? What does he do after completing his task ? What do you think are his feelings at the moment ? [3]
- (iii) Who is Ben Price ? When does he reach Elmore and what brings him here ? [3]
- (iv) What is the strange reaction of Ben Price ? How do you justify his action ? [3]
- (v) Give two examples from the story to show that the author has made excellent use of suspense in the story. [4]

Question 8.

In the story 'The Conjuror's Revenge', why does the conjurer need to take his revenge and how does he go about it? Do you think he is justified in seeking revenge? Give your reasons briefly. [16]

The Village by the Sea : Anita Desai

Question 9.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

"Good, Hari, good," he said again and again, encouragingly, "that's very good. By the time the monsoon comes, I'll have finished giving you your first lessons. By the time the monsoon is over, you'll be mending watches on your own."

Hari looked up at him, silently, grateful for the suggestion that time would pass.

"Yes", said the old man, looking at him. "Maybe I'll make you smile at last - or even laugh, eh?"

- (i) Where is Hari? What is his present occupation? Who is the old man? [3]
- (ii) How did Hari become associated with him and to what effect? [3]
- (iii) Describe Hari's routine at the Sri Krishna Eating House. [3]
- (iv) How did Lila manage the household in Hari's absence? [3]
- (v) Show how the coming of Diwali makes Hari's whole family "smile at last". [4]

Question 10.

'The Village by the Sea' is a realistic presentation of big Indian cities as well as of its poverty-stricken villages. With reference to life in Thul and Hari's experiences in Bombay, bring out the truth of this statement. [16]

Three Men in a Boat : Jerome K. Jerome

Question 11.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

No, what was sad in this case was that he, who didn't care for carved oak, should have his drawing - room panelled with it, while people who do care for it have to pay enormous prices to get it. It seems to be the rule of this world. Each person has what he doesn't want, and other people have what he does want.

- (i) Where is the writer at this moment? About whom is he talking and why does he agree with the person discussed? [3]
- (ii) How does the writer go on to prove that "each person has what he doesn't want, and other people have what he does want"? [3]
- (iii) Why does the writer tell the story of a boy in his school called Sandford and Merton but whose real name was Stivvings? [3]
- (iv) How does the writer contrast the rest of the boys in the school with him? [3]
- (v) Describe the the thoughts about the future that arise in the writer's mind at this time. What does he predict about what will happen 200 years later? [4]

Question 12.

One sees a good many funny incidents up the river in connection with towing, says the writer. Describe three funny incidents connected with towing in the story - Three Men in a Boat. [16]