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ISC Specimen 2015 Literature in English

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ENGLISH PAPER 2
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
(Prescribed Textbooks)

(Three hours)

*(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for **only** reading the paper.
They must **NOT** start writing during this time.)*

Answer **one** question from Section A and **four** questions from Section B.
In Section B choose questions on at least **three** textbooks which may include **EITHER**
Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* **OR** Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*.

Note: You are required to select questions on **one play only**,
EITHER *Much Ado about Nothing* **OR** *Arms and the Man* in Sections A and B.
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

(Answer one question.)

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING — Shakespeare

Question 1

Choose **two** of the passages (a) to (c) and answer briefly the questions that follow:

(a) Claudio: Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signior Leonato?

Benedick: I noted her not; but I looked on her.

Claudio: Is she not a modest young lady?

Benedick: Do you question me, as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgement; or would you have me speak after my custom as being a professed tyrant to their sex?

Claudio: No I pray thee speak in sober judgement.

(i) Where are Claudio and Benedick? From where have they just returned? [1]

(ii) What have we already learnt about these two young men? [2]

(iii) Explain the line:

“Do you question me, as an honest man should do for my simple true judgment;” [1½]

(iv) What judgment does Benedick give about the lady? [2]

(v) What are Claudio’s feelings for the lady? Who promises to help him in learning about her feelings for him and how? [2]

(vi) Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the context of the passage: [1½]

modest; custom; professed

(b) Leonato: Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband.

Beatrice: Not till God makes men of some other metal than earth. Would it not grieve a woman to be over-mastered with a piece of valiant dust?

To make an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl? No uncle, I’ll none : Adam’s sons are my brethren; and truly I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.

Leonato: Daughter, remember what I told you: if the prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer.

(i) Where are the speakers? For what are they preparing? [1]

(ii) Who had informed Leonato about what was going to take place at the revels? [2]

What had the person said?

(iii) Explain the lines: “If the prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer.” [1½]

(iv) What does Leonato hope for his niece? What answer does she give him? [2]

(v) What do you conclude about Beatrice from her words? [2]

(vi) Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the context of the passage: [1½]

fitted; valiant; marl.

(c) Leonato: No, not so, villain; thou beliest thyself:
 Here stand a pair of honourable men;
 A third is fled, that had a hand in it.
 I thank you, princes, for my daughter's death:
 Record it with your high and worthy deeds.
 'Twas bravely done, if you bethink you of it.

Claudio: I know not how to pray your patience;
 Yet, I must speak. Choose you revenge yourself;
 Impose me to what penance your invention
 Can lay upon my sin: yet sinn'd I not
 But in mistaking.

- (i) Where are Claudio and Leonato? Who are the others present? [1]
- (ii) Whom does Leonato refer to as the "pair of honourable men"? Who is the "third" who has fled? [2]
- (iii) Explain the lines:
 "yet sinn'd I not
 But in mistaking" [1½]
- (iv) What is the reason for Leonato's apparent grief? What information have the persons present just received? [2]
- (v) What "penance" does Leonato impose on Claudio? [2]
- (vi) Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the context of the passage: [1½]
 beliest; invention, mistaking.

ARMS AND THE MAN — *George Bernard Shaw*

Question 2

Choose **two** of the passages (a) to (c) and answer briefly the questions that follow:

(a) Raina: What will he care for my poor little worship after the acclamation of a whole army of heroes? But no matter. I am so happy! so proud! (*She rises and walks about excitedly*) It proves that our ideas were real after all.

Catherine(indignantly): Our ideas real! What do you mean?

Raina: Our ideas of what Sergius would do. Our patriotism. Our heroic ideals.

- (i) Where are Raina and Catherine? What news has Catherine brought? [2]
- (ii) How does the news affect Raina? [2]
- (iii) What had Raina been doing before the entry of Catherine? [1]
- (iv) How had Raina treated Sergius before he had gone off for the war? [2]
- (v) What doubts did she have about Sergius before his success? [1]
- (vi) How do we know that her attitude towards Sergius has changed after hearing her mother's account? [2]

(b) Catherine: You look superb. The campaign has improved you Sergius. Everybody here is mad about you. We were all wild with enthusiasm about that magnificent cavalry charge.

Sergius (with grave irony): Madam it was the cradle and grave of my military reputation.

Catherine: How so?

- (i) Who is Sergius? What have we heard about his exploits from Catherine earlier? [2]
- (ii) What is Major Petkoff's idea of Sergius? [1]
- (iii) Explain the meaning of "the cradle and grave of my military reputation"? [1]
- (iv) How does Sergius answer Catherine's question? [2]

- (v) How does Catherine reassure him? [2]
- (vi) Who enters soon after this? Describe the manner of her entrance. [2]
- (c) Louka: Yes: sell your manhood for 30 levas, and buy me for 10! (Rising scornfully) Keep your money. You were born to be a servant. I was not. When you set up your shop you will only be everybody's servant instead of somebody's servant. (She goes moodily to the table and seats herself regally in Sergius' chair.)
- Nicola: (picking up his logs, and going to the stove) Ah, wait till you see. We shall have our evenings to ourselves; and I shall be master in my own house, I promise you.
- (i) Where are Louka and Nicola? [1]
- (ii) Which action of Louka does Nicola comment upon? What does he say? [2]
- (iii) What news does Nicola go on to give Louka? [2]
- (iv) What does he ask Louka to do for him and how does Louka reply? [2]
- (v) Of what does Nicola go on to remind Louka? [1]
- (vi) Which *cold blooded wisdom* does he impart to her? [2]

SECTION B

(Answer **four** questions on at least **three** textbooks which may include **EITHER** *Much Ado about Nothing* **OR** *Arms and the Man*.)

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING — Shakespeare

Question 3 [20]

Give a vivid description of the first scene of the play and examine its significance.

Question 4 [20]

What is the role of the following characters in the play:

- (a) Don John
- (b) Margaret

ARMS AND THE MAN — *George Bernard Shaw*

Question 5 [20]

Give a vivid description of the incidents that occur in Raina's bedchamber till the sudden entrance of Bluntschli. What do you conclude about Raina from her words and actions?

Question 6 [20]

Examine the role of Nicola in the play.

IVANHOE — *Sir Walter Scott*

Question 7 [20]

Give a vivid account of the events of the first day of the tournament at Ashby. What conclusions have you drawn about Prince John from his behaviour during the tournament?

Question 8 [20]

Give a vivid description of the meeting between the Black Knight and the hermit, or the Clerk of Copmanhurst in the woods.

Question 9 [20]

What picture do you get of contemporary society from the novel *Ivanhoe*?

ISC COLLECTION OF ESSAYS

Question 10 [20]

Rabindranath Tagore in his essay, *The Spirit of Freedom*, writes, "Thus it has become more and more evident to me that the ideal of freedom has grown tenuous in the atmosphere of the West". In the light of this statement, examine Tagore's thoughts on freedom as expressed in his essay.

Question 11

[20]

Referring closely to the essay, *Reading for Pleasure*, show how L.A.G. Strong's taste in reading kept changing as he matured.

Question 12

[20]

Referring closely to the essay, *The Rule of the Road*, discuss how the writer explains that "Liberty is not a personal affair only, but a social contract."

ISC COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

[20]

Question 13

Referring closely to the short story, *The Lost Jewels*, give your views about the character of:

- Bhusan Saha
- Mani

Question 14

[20]

The Drover's Wife is a short story that depicts the struggle for survival against the harsh conditions of the Australian Outback. Discuss.

Question 15

[20]

Ichabod Crane, the central character of the short story, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, has serious flaws of character, but he also has several good qualities.

Discuss with close reference to the story.

ISC COLLECTION OF POEMS**Question 16****[20]**

Referring closely to the poem, *Dulce et Decorum Est*, discuss how the poet has revealed the brutal realities of war.

Question 17**[20]**

Five Ways to Kill a Man presents the grim realities of war and killing. What are the various methods used to kill people down the ages? What is the final message of the poem?

Question 18**[20]**

The poem *Phenomenal Woman* is a celebration and assertion of womanhood. Discuss.