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ICSE 2007 : 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:-

Caesar : Let me have men about me that are fat,
 Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep a-nights.
 Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
 He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.

Antony : Fear him not, Caesar, he's not dangerous;
 He is a noble Roman, and well given.

Caesar : Would he were fatter! But I fear him not;
 Yet if my name were liable to fear,
 I do not know the man I should avoid
 So soon as that spare Cassius.

(i) Explain the lines:-

(a) 'Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep a-nights.'

(b) 'He is a noble Roman, and well given.'

[3]

This Paper consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.

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Turn over

- (ii) Just before the extract, Brutus notices some changes in Caesar and his train as they return from the games. Mention any three changes seen by Brutus. [3]
- (iii) Immediately after the extract, Caesar states that Cassius is a man to be avoided. What reasons does Caesar give for feeling so? [3]
- (iv) At the end of the scene, Cassius decides to influence Brutus further. How does he plan to do this and why? [3]
- (v) Mention any two characteristics of Caesar as seen in the scene from which the extract is taken (Act I, Scene 2). For each, give an example to justify your answer. [4]

Question 2

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

Octavius : You may do your will;

But he's a tried and valiant soldier.

Antony : So is my horse, Octavius; and for that

I do appoint him store of provender.

It is a creature that I teach to fight,

To wind, to stop, to run directly on,

His corporal motion govern'd by my spirit.

- (i) Where are Antony and Octavius? What are they doing? Who is being discussed in the above extract? [3]
- (ii) Where has Antony sent the person being discussed and why? What is Antony's attitude towards that person? [3]
- (iii) Immediately before the extract, what is the comparison Antony makes about the person being discussed? [3]
- (iv) Later in the scene, Antony says, "And now, Octavius, Listen great things". What 'great things' does he speak of? [3]
- (v) State one characteristic of Octavius that can be observed from this scene. Justify your answer with an example. At the end of the play, how does Octavius pay homage to Brutus? [4]

The Winslow Boy : Terence Rattigan.

Question 3

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

John : Gosh! Do you know you used to be a schoolboy hero of mine?

Desmond : Did I? Did I, indeed?

John : Yes. I had a signed photograph of you.

Desmond : Yes. I used to sign a lot once, for schoolboys, I remember.

Arthur : Only for schoolboys, Desmond?

Desmond : I fear so—yes. Girls took no interest in cricket in those days.

John : Gosh! D.W.H. Curry—in person. Well, I'd never have thought it.

- (i) Where are the speakers? Name the others present at the scene. [3]
- (ii) How has John been described? Which great deed of Desmond has made him John's schoolboy hero? [3]
- (iii) Earlier in the scene, John talks to Arthur about marrying Catherine. What does Arthur tell him about his own income and Catherine's settlement? [3]
- (iv) What unexpected news does Arthur receive a little later? What is the effect of the news on him and what does he do? [3]
- (v) Explain the significance of Desmond's role in the play. What is your own opinion of Desmond? [4]

Question 4

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

(Catherine comes in)

Catherine : Lord! The heat! Mother, can't you get rid of those reporters – Hullo, Dickie.

Dickie *(embracing her)* : Hullo, Kate.

Catherine : Come to be in at the death?

Dickie : Is that what it's going to be?

Catherine : Looks like it. I could cheerfully strangle that old brute of a judge, Mother. He's dead against us.

Grace (*fixing her hat in the mirror*) : Oh, dear!

- (i) Where has Catherine come from? What is happening there? What important event occurs at the end of the scene? [3]
- (ii) What does Catherine go on to say about Sir Robert immediately after the extract? [3]
- (iii) A little later in the scene, what information does Catherine give to Arthur about the postmistress? [3]
- (iv) In the beginning of the scene, Dickie has a telephonic conversation. What does he say? [3]
- (v) Mention any two aspects of the play *The Winslow Boy* that have appealed to you. Justify your answer with examples. [4]

SECTION B – POETRY

Whispers of Immortality

Question 5

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

The teacher set his eyes upon his book, and the water held
and hid what it stole and went its way.

The daylight faded when Raghunath came back to the teacher
tired and dripping.

(*Govinda's Disciple by Rabindranath Tagore*)

- (i) Where is the teacher sitting? What is he doing at this place? How have the river and hills around him been described? [3]
- (ii) Describe the object the water held and carried away. How had it fallen into the water? [3]
- (iii) How does Raghunath react to the object falling into the water? In what way does his action contradict what he had said earlier? [3]
- (iv) What does Raghunath say when he comes back to the teacher? Describe the teacher's reaction. [3]
- (v) What message is conveyed through this poem? Justify your answer giving suitable reasons. [4]

Question 6

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

'That's my last Duchess painted on the wall,
Looking as if she were alive. I call
That piece a wonder, now:

(*My Last Duchess by Robert Browning*)

- (i) Who is the narrator addressing? What is the occasion? Who had the last Duchess been painted by? [3]
- (ii) Mention three reasons given by the narrator for 'the spot of joy' on the cheek of the Duchess. [3]
- (iii) How has the narrator described the 'heart' of the Duchess? [3]
- (iv) Mention any three things which drew speeches of approval from the Duchess. [3]
- (v) State any one characteristic of the narrator with a suitable illustration from the poem. Comment on the way the poem ends. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE***An Anthology of Short Stories*****Question 7**

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

"Why is he weeping?" asked a little Green Lizard, as he ran past him with his tail in the air.

"Why, indeed?" said a Butterfly, who was fluttering about after a sunbeam.

"He is weeping for a red rose," said the Nightingale.

"For a red rose?" they cried; "how very ridiculous!"

But the Nightingale understood the secret of the Student's sorrow, and she sat silent in the oak-tree, and thought about the mystery of love. Suddenly she spread her brown wings for flight, and soared into the air.

- (i) Explain why the student needed the red rose. [3]
- (ii) Who does the Nightingale approach first to get a red rose? What does she promise to do in return for a red rose? What reply does she receive? [3]

- (iii) Why does the tree beneath the student's window say that it would have no roses at all that year? [3]
- (iv) What happens to the red rose at the end of the story? [3]
- (v) Explain the sacrifice made by the Nightingale to get a red rose for the student. Why does she make such a sacrifice? [4]

Question 8

With close reference to the story *The Silver Lining*, describe how the arrival of Mr. David brings about a change in the lives of the Bhandari family. [16]

The Village by the Sea : Anita Desai

Question 9

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

At the end of the lane was the temple. It was not very old or beautiful, it had four brick pillars supporting a tiled roof, an unwallled court and a small alcove that housed an idol. That was all. But there were several young men on the steps, sitting and playing drums and singing.

Lila could not help staring, and a young girl who was watching from a brick house across the lane called to her, "See, Lila, the actors have come. They are going to do a play tonight."

- (i) Who is the young girl? What information does she give to Lila about the play to be staged? [3]
- (ii) Give a description of what Lila has observed earlier on the beach. [3]
- (iii) What do Lila and her companion see as Lila goes to buy some rice and sugar? [3]
- (iv) A little later in the story, Lila and her companion talk about Biju. Give an account of their conversation. [3]
- (v) What role does Lila play in the story? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. [4]

Question 10

Give an account of Hari's journey from Thul to Bombay. [16]

Three Men in a Boat : Jerome K. Jerome

Question 11

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

Talking of locks reminds me of an accident George and I very nearly had one summer's morning at Hampton Court.

It was a glorious day, and the lock was crowded; and, as is a common practice up the river, a speculative photographer was taking a picture of us all as we lay upon the rising waters.

- (i) How does George react on seeing the photographer? [3]
- (ii) What does the author do when he realises that there is a photographer present? [3]
- (iii) How does the author react when he hears someone shout, 'Hi! look at your nose'? [3]
- (iv) Whose nose is actually being referred to? What is the real problem? How do George and the author rectify the problem? [3]
- (v) Describe the photograph that is ultimately taken. [4]

Question 12

"Why, it's so curious," murmured Harris, "but precisely that very same thing happened to my father once at a country inn...." Narrate the incident referred to in the above statement, bringing out the humour in the situation. [16]