

ISC SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER FOR 2011 EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

Paper - 2

(Prescribed Textbooks)

(Three hours)

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

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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 *Macbeth* **OR** Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

If you answer two questions on any one text, do not base them on the same material.

**Note:** You are required to select questions on **one play only**,  
**EITHER** *Macbeth* **OR** *Pygmalion* in Sections A and B.

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

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SECTION A

(Answer one question)

*Macbeth* — Shakespeare

Question 1

[20]

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

- (a) **Macbeth** : Stay, you imperfect speakers tell me more.  
By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? The thane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman, and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
No more than to be Cawdor. Say, from whence  
You owe this strange intelligence? Or why  
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way  
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.

- (i) Where is Macbeth? Whom does he address as 'imperfect speakers'?
- (ii) What had imperfect speakers told him? Why does Macbeth call them 'imperfect'?
- (iii) Explain the lines:

The Thane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman

- (iv) Who is with Macbeth? How had this person reacted to the 'imperfect speakers' and their words?
- (v) Give the meaning of the following words in the context of the passage:

Intelligence ; blasted

**(b) Macbeth** : Both of you know  
Banquo was your enemy

**Murderers** : True my lord.

**Macbeth** : So is he mine, and in such bloody distance  
That every minute of his being thrusts  
Against my near'st of life; and though I could  
With barefac'd power sweep him from my sight  
And bid my will avouch it, yet I must not,  
For certain friends that are both his and mine  
Whose loves I may not drop, but wail his fall  
Who I myself struck down.

- (i) Why has Macbeth summoned the two murderers? How does he ensure that he can meet the murderers alone?
- (ii) What had Macbeth said to the murderers at their previous meeting?
- (iii) Explain the lines:

"but wail his fall,  
Who I myself stuck down".

- (iv) Why can't Macbeth murder Banquo himself?
- (v) Give the meanings of the following words in the context of the passage:  
Bare fac'd : avouch.

**(c) Lady Macduff** : What had he done, to make him fly the land?

**Ross** : You must have patience madam

He had none

**Lady Macduff** : His fight was madness. When our actions do not  
Our fears do make us traitors.

**Ross** : You know not  
whether it was his wisdom or his fear

**Lady Macduff** : Wisdom? To leave his wife, to leave his babes  
His mansion, and his titles in a place  
From whence himself does fly? He loves us not  
He wants the natural touch.....

- (i) Where has Macduff gone? What does he hope to achieve?
- (ii) Why is Lady Macduff upset with her husband?
- (iii) Explain the line:  
“He wants the natural touch”
- (iv) Which reasons does Ross give for Macduff behaviour?
- (v) Give the meanings of the following words in the context of the passage:  
babes; whence.

**(d) Messenger** : Let me endure your wrath if't be not so;  
Within this three mile may you see it coming  
I say, a moving grove.

**Macbeth** : If thou speak'st false,  
Upon the next tree shall thou hang alive  
Till famine cling thee; if thy speech sooth  
I care not if thou dost for me as much  
I pull in resolution and begin  
To doubt th' equivocation of the fiend  
That lies like truth.

- (i) Where is Macbeth as he speaks these lines? Why does the news of a moving grove trouble Macbeth?
- (ii) What is the “moving grove” actually?
- (iii) Explain the line:  
“I pull in resolution and begin  
To doubt th' equivocation of the fiend.....”
- (iv) What does Macbeth decide to do at the end of the scene?

- (v) Give the meaning of the following words in the context of the passage :  
wrath; sooth

**Pygmalion — George Bernard Shaw**

**Question 2**

**[20]**

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

**(a) The Note taker :** You see this creature with her kerbstone English: the English that will keep her in the gutter to the end of her days. Well, sir, in three months I could pass that girl off as a duchess at an ambassador's garden party. I could even get her a place as lady's maid or shop assistant, which requires better English.

**The Flower Girl :** What's that you say?

**The Note taker :** Yes, you squashed cabbage leaf, you disgrace to the noble architecture of these columns, you incarnate insult to the English language: I could pass you off as the Queen of Sheba.

- (i) Where does this conversation take place? How had the Note Taker and the Flower Girl met?
- (ii) Whom had the Flower Girl mistaken the Note Taker to be? Which right of hers did she defend?
- (iii) How had the Note Taker gained the confidence of the people assembled at this spot?
- (iv) In what way is the Flower Girl's speech an "incarnate insult to the English language"?
- (v) What does the Flower Girl's reaction 'What's that you say' indicate?

**(b) Higgins (revolted):** Do you mean to say that you would sell your daughter for £ 50?

**Doolittle :** Not in a general way I wouldn't; but to oblige a gentleman like you I'd do a good deal, I do assure you.

**Pickering :** Have you no morals, man?

**Doolittle (unabashed):** Can't afford them, Governor. Neither could you if you was as poor as me. Not that I mean any harm, you know. But if Liza is going to have a bit out of this, why not me too?

**Higgins** (*troubled*) : I don't know what to do, Pickering. There can be no question that as a matter of morals it's a positive crime to give this chap a farthing. And yet I feel a sort of rough justice in his claim.

- (i) Where are Doolittle, Higgins and Pickering? What reason does Doolittle give for being here?
- (ii) What is his real reason for coming here?
- (iii) How did Doolittle learn about Liza's presence here?
- (iv) How does Higgins treat Doolittle at first? Why does he do so?
- (v) Which ability of Doolittle impresses Higgins?

(c) **Hostess** : Ah, here you are at last, Nepommuck. Have you found out all about the Doolittle lady?

**Nepommuck** : I have found out all about her. She is a fraud.

**Hostess** : A fraud! Oh no.

**Nepommuck** : YES, yes. She cannot deceive me. Her name cannot be Doolittle.

**Higgins** : Why?

**Nepommuck** : Because Doolittle is an English name. And she is not English.

- (i) Where is Higgins? Why is he here?
- (ii) Who is Nepommuck? How had he greeted Higgins?
- (iii) What is Higgins' opinion of Nepommuck? What task does their hostess give Nepommuck?
- (iv) What does Nepommuck say about Liza? What is his reason for having this opinion?
- (v) In what way does Higgins differ from Nepommuck's opinion?

(d) **Higgins** (in despairing wrath outside): What the devil have I done with my slippers? (He appears at the door).

**Liza** (snatching up the slippers, and hurling them at him one after the other with all her force). There are your slippers. And there. Take your slippers; and may you never have a day's luck with them!

**Higgins** (astounded) what on earth – (He comes to her), what's the matter? Get up (He pulls her up). Anything wrong?

**Liza** (breathless) Nothing wrong – with you. I've won your bet for you, havnt I? That's enough for you. I don't matter I suppose.

- (i) Where are Higgins and Liza? Describe Liza's state of mind.
- (ii) What had Higgins told Liza to do before he left the room?
- (iii) Why, in your opinion does Liza throw the slippers at Higgins?
- (iv) Which 'bet' does Liza mention?
- (v) What is Higgin's reaction to Liza's comment?

## SECTION B

(Answer **four** questions on at least **three** textbooks which may include **EITHER**  
*Macbeth* **OR** *Pygmalion*.)

### **Macbeth — Shakespeare**

**Question 3** [20]  
Give a vivid account of the Banquet Scene. Why is this scene the turning point of Macbeth's fortunes?

**Question 4** [20]  
"Lesser than Macbeth and greater  
Not so happy, yet much happier".  
By detailed consideration of what he says and does, show whether you agree with what the witches say about Banquo.

### **Pygmalion — George Bernard Shaw**

**Question 5** [20]  
Give a vivid account of the 'at home' at Mrs. Higgins' flat. How do Higgins, Mrs. Higgins and Liza behave at the 'at home'? What does Mrs. Higgins say to her son and Colonel Pickering after the guests leave?

**Question 6** [20]

Pickering treats a flower girl as if she were a duchess while Higgins treats a duchess as if she were a flower girl. With close reference to the play, show how far is this a true description of their behaviour.

**The Mayor of Casterbridge — *Thomas Hardy***

**Question 7** [20]

Describe the circumstances which led to the parting between Henchard and his wife Susan.

**Question 8** [20]

“Give a vivid account of the scimmity ride arranged by the villagers and comment on its effect on the fortunes of Lucetta and Henchard.

**Question 9** [20]

Examine the roles of the following in the novel.

- a) Elizabeth – Jane
- b) Lucetta

**Footprints – Compiled and edited by Stephen DaCosta**

**Question 10** [20]

Referring closely to the essay Principles of Good Writing explain what the writer upholds as the fundamental principles of Good Writing.

**Question 11** [20]

Referring closely to Bertrand Russell’s essay ‘Ideas that have helped mankind’, comment on the different stages through which the modern civilization has progressed.

**Question 12** [20]

Nani Palkhivala in his essay. ‘The Ailing Planet’: The Green Movement’s Role’, calls man ‘the worlds’ most dangerous animal’. How does he defend his viewpoint and at the same time holds out hope for the world?

## HUES

### Question 13

[20]

At the end of the short story 'Growing Up', Robert Quick, the father of Jenny and Kate, realizes that his daughters are growing up and so is he. Describe the events that lead to this realization.

### Question 14

[20]

Referring closely do the short story 'The Portrait of a Lady' chart the different phases of the narrator's relationship with his grandmother.

### Question15

[20]

Describe Nilkanta's life before and after he arrived at Kiran's house. Why, in your opinion, did Nilkanta leave Kiran's house in silence?

## STARLIGHT – G.K. DANTES

### Question 16

[20]

What are the thoughts that rise in the mind of Coleridge as he muses beside a fire on a frosty night in the poem 'Frost at Midnight'. What is the future envisaged by the poet for his son?

### Question 17

[20]

'The Raven' builds up an atmosphere of melancholy and doom through the encounter between the speaker and the raven. Referring closely to the poem show how Poe achieves this effect.

### Question 18

[20]

How does the poet's encounter with an old woman in the poem 'An Old Woman', become the occasion for the poet's awareness of the decay and degeneration in our lives?