

Appreciation of English Literary Texts - Paper I

- * Answer *all* the questions in Section A.
- * Select *either* I, II *or* III from Section B and answer all the questions given below it.
- * The maximum mark allocated for Paper I is 40.

Section A – Poetry, Prose and Drama

Read the following extracts and answer all the questions given below them.

I Poetry

I (i) “Up there he’s a king on a throne
 But at home you should hear him moan”

(a) Name the poem from which these lines are taken. Name the poet.

.....
 (01 mark)

(b) Who is the person referred to in these lines?

.....
 (01 mark)

(c) What is meant by ‘up there’ in line one?

.....
 (01 mark)

(d) Comment on the theme reflected in these lines.

.....

 (02 marks)

I (ii) “They left him just as dusk was falling
 With a hunchback moon and screech-owls calling.”

(a) From which poem are these lines taken? Who is the poet?

.....
 (01 mark)

(b) What is the situation presented in these lines?

.....
 (01 mark)

(c) What time of day is indicated by these lines?

.....
 (01 mark)

(d) Explain the effect created by the images used in these lines.

.....

 (02 marks)

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II Prose

II (i) "Pearls and pomegranates cannot buy it, nor is it set forth in the market place"

(a) Name the text from which these lines are taken. Name the author.

.....
..... (01 mark)

(b) What is referred to as 'it' in this extract?

.....
..... (01 mark)

(c) Who expresses the opinion given in these lines?

.....
..... (01 mark)

(d) What relationship do these lines have with what happens at the end of the story?

.....
..... (02 marks)

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II (ii) "There was absolute clarity and awareness of what was happening at that moment"

(a) From which text are these lines extracted? Who is the speaker/author?

.....
..... (01 mark)

(b) What is the moment referred to in these lines?

.....
..... (01 mark)

(c) How did the speaker/author face the 'moment'?

.....
..... (01 mark)

(d) What characteristics of a good leader are reflected in these words? Explain briefly two of them.

.....
..... (02 marks)

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III Drama

III (i) "Well, now, it's very nice to have got two pieces of the cloth-God bless us!"

(a) From which text are those lines extracted? Who is the author?

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(b) Who speaks these words?

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(c) When are they spoken?

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(d) What impression of the speaker do you get from these words?

.....
.....

(02 marks)

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III (ii) "Here the sexes are equal. I'll shoot her on principle. But what a woman!"

(a) From which text are these lines taken? Who is the author?

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(b) Who is the speaker of these words?

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(c) What situation makes the speaker utter these words?

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(d) The speaker seems to be undergoing strong emotions at this moment. Explain briefly at least **two** such emotions.

.....
.....

(02 marks)

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Section B – Novels

Select EITHER I, II OR III from Section B and answer all the questions given below it.

I. Read the following extract from *The Prince and the Pauper* and answer all the questions given below it.

“His meal being ended, a lord came and held before him a broad, shallow, golden dish with fragrant rose-water in it, to cleanse his mouth and fingers with; and my lord the Hereditary Diaperer stood by with a napkin for his use. Tom gazed at the dish a puzzled moment or two, then raised it to his lips, and gravely took a draught. Then he returned it to the waiting lord, and said:

‘Nay, it likes me not, my lord: it hath a pretty flavour, but it wanteth strength.’

This new eccentricity of the prince’s ruined mind made all the hearts about him ache; but the sad sight moved none to merriment.

Tom’s next unconscious blunder was to get up and leave the table just when the chaplain had taken his stand behind his chair and with uplifted hands, and closed, uplifted eyes, was in the act of beginning the blessing. Still nobody seemed to perceive that the prince had done a thing unusual.

By his own request, our small friend was now conducted to his private cabinet, and left there alone to his own devices.”

(i) When and where does the incident take place?

.....
.....
.....
.....

(02 marks)

(ii) What were the two blunders committed by the character mentioned in the passage?

(1)
(2)

(02 marks)

(iii) Explain the meanings of the following phrases as they occur in this passage.

(a) puzzled moment or two

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(b) took a draught

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(iv) How do you respond to the actions of the ‘Prince’, mentioned in the passage?

.....
.....
.....
.....

(04 marks)

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II. Read the following extract from *Bringing Tony Home* and answer all the questions given below it.

“...and now the entire class explodes in hysterical laughter; the pencil has snapped and Padmini is free but now the uproar is maintained deliberately; having broken through classroom order there is no wish to get back to it and in the confusion I see Mr. Jayakody advancing slowly forward, towards me, and his little eyes have come out of the sockets and flash with cold undiluted anger and I get up and the uproar begins to recede like an ebbing wave and now the garden lizard is hissing and blowing and Tony moves sideways with fangs bared and barking wildly and Mr. Jayakody has stopped right near me and he pushes his dark black ugly face right up and I could almost hear his breathing heavy and angry, and the black dragon is swishing his scaly tail and Tony is dangerously close to the monster and the barking becomes fierce and desperate but in the classroom now there is an awesome silence and I keep looking helplessly at the dark face and the tiny eyes in front of me and then there is a blinding flash and a cracking sound and I close my eyes and hold my cheek and slowly and excruciating pain begins on my lower jaw and spreads all over my face like scalding water and all I hear is Tony barking furiously.”

(i) When and where does this incident take place?

.....
.....
.....
.....

(02 marks)

(ii) Describe the atmosphere in the place.

.....
.....
.....
.....

(02 marks)

(iii) Explain the meanings of the following phrases as they occur in the passage:

(a) uproar is maintained

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(b) cold undiluted anger

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(iv) Why do you think the narrator draws a parallel between Tony and the garden lizard and his conflict with Mr. Jayakody?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(04 marks)

III. Read the following extract from *The Vendor of Sweets* and then answer all the questions given below it.

“Matters became worse when Mali indicated the girl at his side and said, “This is Grace. We are married. Grace, my dad.” Complete confusion. Married? When were you married? You didn’t tell me. Don’t you have to tell your father? Who is she? Anyway she looks like a Chinese. Don’t you know that one can’t marry a Chinese nowadays? They have invaded our borders ... Or perhaps she is a Japanese. How was one to find out? Any indiscreet question might upset the gentlemen with the camera. Jagan threw a panicky look at his cousin and fled on the pretext of supervising the loading of the baggage into Gaffur’s taxi outside. A small gaping crowd followed them to the car murmuring, “He’s come from America.” Mali took notice of Gaffur by saying, “Jalopy going strong?” Gaffur did not understand the word “jalopy” (which sounded to everyone like the “jilebi” prepared in Jagan’s shop). Jagan and the cousin sat with Gaffur in the front seat, leaving the back for Grace and Mali. Gaffur said without turning his head, “Why didn’t you bring a car for me?” Jagan feared that Gaffur’s familiarity might upset Mali, but the young man, fresh from democratic surroundings, said: “Wish you had told me; oh, I sold my Pontiac before leaving.”

(i) When and where does this incident take place?

.....
.....
.....
.....

(ii) What is Jagan’s reaction to Grace?

(02 marks)

.....
.....
.....
.....

(02 marks)

(iii) Explain the meaning of the following phrases as they occur in the passage:

(a) indiscreet question

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(b) threw a panicky look

.....
.....

(01 mark)

(iv) What themes of the novel are reflected in the passage? Briefly explain at least two of them.

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.....
.....
.....

(04 marks)

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සියලු ම හිමිකම් ඇවිරිණි / முழுப் பதிப்புரிமையுடையது / All Rights Reserved]

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General Certificate of Education (Ord. Level) Examination, 2024 (2025)

ඉංග්‍රීසි සාහිත්‍ය රසාස්වාදය I, II
இலக்கிய நயம் ஆங்கிலம் I, II
Appreciation of English Literary Texts I, II

Appreciation of English Literary Texts - Paper II

Instructions:

- * Answer **four** questions selecting **one each** from the four sections - POETRY, DRAMA, PROSE and FICTION.
- * Answers to **Paper II** should be written in the given booklet.
- * The maximum mark allocated for **Paper II** is 60.

POETRY

(Answer **one** question only)

1. 'To the Evening Star' depicts peace, beauty and harmony. Examine how this is achieved in the poem.
2. Emotional conflicts in human beings are subtly symbolised in 'Breakfast'. Examine the poem in relation to this view.
3. Past tragic events often occur again in society leading to new tragedies. Examine how this is presented in the poem 'Big Match 1983'.
4. 'Once Upon a Time' highlights the differences in social norms. Examine this statement in relation to the poem.
5. An imagined interaction between a human and a non-human may create humour. Examine the poem 'Two's Company' with reference to this view. (15 marks)

DRAMA

(Answer **one** question only)

6. Compare and contrast the characters Yohyo and Tsu in *Twilight of a Crane*, focussing on their personalities and actions.
7. Examine the similarities and differences between the characters Smirnov and Popova in *The Bear*, paying attention to their behaviour and growth throughout the drama. (15 marks)

PROSE

(Answer **one** question only)

8. *Wave* explores people's emotional states aroused by tragic experiences. Discuss with reference to the extract set for your study.
9. *The Lumber Room* shows how strict punishments can lead to bold reactions. Discuss with close reference to the short story.
10. *The Lahore Attack* highlights that love, sacrifice and pride for one's country can be expressed in many ways. Discuss with examples from the text.
11. Through the character of the student, *The Nightingale and the Rose* symbolises the futility of focussing on bookish education. Discuss with reference to the short story. (15 marks)

FICTION

(Answer **one** question only)

12. Explore how social justice is presented in *The Prince and the Pauper*.
13. Explore the 'adventurous journey and its results' as presented in the novella, *Bringing Tony Home*.
14. *The Vendor of Sweets* portrays the difficulties in relationships. Explore focussing on any **two** characters in the novel. (15 marks)

