

THE SECOND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2007-08

Class XII (ISC)

English Paper 2

(PRESCRIBED TEXTBOOKS)

Time: Two and a half hours

Maximum marks: 100

**Instructions:**

- \* Answers to this paper must be written on the answer script provided separately.
- \* Please do not write anything on your question paper except your name and roll number.
- \* The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
- \* 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.**
- \* Answer **four** questions in all.
- \* Answer **one** question from **Section A** and **three** questions from **Section B**. In Section B choose questions on at least **two** textbooks, which may include Shakespeare's **Macbeth** or Bernard Shaw's **Pygmalion**.
- \* You are required to select questions on **one play only**, either **Macbeth** or **Pygmalion** in Sections A and B.

**SECTION A**

(Answer any one question)

**Macbeth – Shakespeare**

**Question 1**

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

[25]

(a) **Duncan**

Whence camest thou, worthy thane?

**Rosse**

From Fife, great King,

Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky

And fan our people cold.

Norway himself, with terrible numbers,

Assisted by that most disloyal traitor,

The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;

Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapped in proof,

Confronted him with self-comparisons,

Point against point, rebellious arm 'gainst arm,

Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,

The victory fell on us; –

- (i) Who is Rosse? Where has he come from? What report does he give about the battle?
- (ii) Who attacked Scotland?
- (iii) What punishment was given to the King of Norway and to the Thane of Cawdor?
- (iv) Who is referred to as Bellona's bridegroom? What is the allusion referred to in this description?
- (v) By referring to the scene, describe the courage of Macbeth on the battlefield.
- (vi) Give the meaning of the following expressions in context of the passage: dismal conflict; self-comparisons.

**(b) Macbeth**

I have almost forgot the taste of fears.  
 The time has been, my senses would have cooled?  
 To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair  
 Would, at a dismal treatise, rouse and stir,  
 As life were in't. I have supped full with horrors:  
 Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts,  
 Cannot once start me.  
 Wherefore was that cry?

**Seyton**

The queen, my lord, is dead.

- (i) What was said to Macbeth just before this speech in the extract?
- (ii) Why does Macbeth refer to fear in his speech?
- (iii) Earlier, how has fear affected Macbeth?
- (iv) How did Macbeth react to the death of Lady Macbeth?
- (v) How does Macbeth show in this scene that he is disillusioned with his life?
- (vi) Give the meaning of the following words / expressions in context of the passage:  
 dismal treatise; slaughterous; direness

**(c) Macbeth**

We have scotched the snake, not killed it:  
 She'll close and be herself; whilst our poor malice  
 Remains in danger of her former tooth.  
 But let the frame of things disjoint, both the worlds suffer,  
 Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep

In the affliction of these terrible dreams  
That shake us nightly. Better be with the dead  
Whom we, to gain our place, have sent to peace,  
Than on the torture of the mind to lie  
In restless ecstasy. Duncan is in his grave;  
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;  
Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison.

- (i) Who is the snake referred to in the extract? In what way is the snake scotched and not killed?
- (ii) What does the extract say about disturbing the balance in the universe? Give an example to show that any disturbance in the world of men affects the world of nature.
- (iii) 'In the affliction of these terrible dreams that shake us nightly ...'  
How does Macbeth become a victim of the terrible dreams?
- (iv) According to Macbeth, how is Duncan peaceful in his grave?
- (v) Describe the character of Macbeth in the scene.
- (vi) Give the meaning of the following words / expressions in context of the passage:  
scotched; former tooth; affliction.

OR

**Pygmalion – George Bernard Shaw**

**Question 2**

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

[25]

**(a) Higgins**

My dear Mrs Pearce, my dear Pickering, I never had the slightest intention of walking over anyone. All I propose is that we should be kind to this poor girl. We must help her to prepare and fit herself for her new station in life.

- (i) What is Higgins trying to explain and justify? To whom is he trying to do so?
- (ii) Quote the words that suggest that Higgins had no intention to treat Liza badly or hurt her.
- (iii) What does Higgins propose?
- (iv) What is Liza's new station in life and what does Higgins want Pickering and Mrs Pearce to do in his mission?
- (v) Does Liza feel reassured with Higgins' explanation? Justify your answer.

**(b) Higgins**

[a genial afterthought occurring to him] I daresay my mother could find some chap or other who would do very well.

**Liza**

We were above that at the corner of Tottenham Court Road.

**Higgins**

[waking up] What do you mean?

**Liza**

I sold flowers. I didnt sell myself. Now youve made a lady of me I'm not fit to sell anything else. I wish youd left me where you found me.

- (i) Why does Higgins suggest that 'his mother could find some chap or other' for Liza?
- (ii) Explain: 'I sold flowers. I didn't sell myself.'
- (iii) Why does Liza think she is not fit to sell anything else now?
- (iv) What does Higgins say to Liza immediately after the above extract?
- (v) What suggestion does Higgins make a little later in response to Liza's question 'What else am I to do'?
- (vi) How far do you sympathize with Liza at this moment?

**(c) Pickering**

He ought to, Eliza – Why has she changed her mind?

**Doolittle**

Intimidated, Governor. Intimidated. Middle class morality claims its victim. Wont you put on your hat, Liza, and come and see me turned off?

- (i) What has Doolittle decided to do? Who has changed her mind?
- (ii) Does Eliza approve of her decision? If not why?
- (iii) What does Doolittle mean by saying middle class morality claims its victim?
- (iv) Where does Doolittle invite Eliza?
- (v) Who else has Doolittle requested to come there "to see him through"? Why is Doolittle so nervous?

## SECTION B

(Answer **three** questions on at least **two** textbooks, which may include **Pygmalion OR Macbeth**)

### **Macbeth – Shakespeare**

#### **Question 3**

Compare the character of Macbeth to that of Banquo. [25]

#### **Question 4**

Estimate the influence of Lady Macbeth on her husband and indicate the importance of her role in the play. [25]

### **Pygmalion – Bernard Shaw**

#### **Question 5**

“The ending of the play ‘**Pygmalion**’ is defective and unsatisfactory”. Do you agree with the statement? [25]

#### **Question 6**

Give a brief account of the Ambassador’s Garden Party, which culminates in Eliza winning the bet for Higgins. Why is Eliza unhappy after the event, despite her stupendous triumph? [25]

### **ISC Poetry – Ed. W.R. Gardner**

#### **Question 7**

Describe how the poet in the ‘**Elegy written in a Country Churchyard**’ expresses his sentiments for those who lived far from the madding crowd. [25]

#### **Question 8**

In the poem ‘**Flute Music**’ describe what happened when Haripada’s aunt settled his marriage to her niece. How did the neighbour’s music change his life? [25]

#### **Question 9**

“And sank in tumult Kubla heard from far ancestral voices prophesying war!”  
In the light of the given statement, give the description of the magnificent pleasure palace as ordered by ‘**Kubla Khan**’. [25]

**Timeless Short Stories – Compiled by T.W. Phillips**

**Question 10**

In the story '**The Secret Life of Walter Mitty**' narrate the events that show Walter Mitty as a man of great daring, courage and brilliance.

[25]

**Question 11**

Discuss Katherine Mansfield's use of contrast as a technique to highlight the theme of the story '**The Ideal Family**'.

[25]

**Question 12**

Discuss the remarks of Grandmamma and Dabney on 'home life' and 'marriage' in the story '**The Dinner Party**'.

[25]