

THE SECOND COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION 2007

Class XII (ISC)

English Paper 2

(PRESCRIBED TEXTBOOKS)

Time: Two hours and a half

Maximum marks: 100

83

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) **Macbeth**

Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cowed my better part of man:
And be these juggling fiends no more believed,
That palter with us in a double sense,
That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope. – I'll not fight with thee.

- (i) Where is Macbeth? Why does he curse the 'tongue' and what has the tongue just told him?
- (ii) How have the 'juggling fiends' pattered with Macbeth in a 'double sense'?
- (iii) What reason had Macbeth earlier told Macduff about not fighting with him?
- (iv) How does Macduff force Macbeth to fight? What is the outcome?

(b) Messenger

Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known,
Though in your state of honour I am perfect.
I doubt, some danger does approach you nearly:
If you will take a homely man's advice,
Be not found here; hence, with your little ones.

- (i) Who is the 'fair dame'? What has she been talking about when the messenger arrived and with whom?
- (ii) What is the danger the messenger is warning the 'fair dame' about? When was the decision taken about the soon to occur danger?
- (iii) Who had just gone before the messenger arrived? What news had he brought her?
- (iv) Explain: "I am not to you known I am perfect."

(c) Macbeth

It will have blood, they say, blood will have blood:
Stones have been known to move, and trees to speak;
Augurs, and understood relations, have
By magot - pies and choughs, and rooks, brought forth
The secret'st man of blood ...

- (i) Where is Macbeth at present? Who else is present?
- (ii) What has happened to make Macbeth say the quoted line?
- (iii) Rewrite the quoted passage in modern English.
- (iv) What question does he ask immediately after and what answer does he get? From whom?
- (v) What do you learn of Macbeth's state of mind from the words he speaks?

OR

Pygmalion – George Bernard Shaw

Question 2

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

[25]

(a) Doolittle

We're all intimidated. Intimidated maam: that's what we are.

- (i) Who is Doolittle speaking to? Where are the speakers?
- (ii) Why is the speaker at this place?
- (iii) Explain the lines given above.

- (iv) Later in this speech Doolittle says, "It's a choice between the Skilly of the workhouse and the Char Bydis of the middle class." Clearly explain the reference to 'Skilly' and 'Char Bydis'.
- (v) According to Doolittle, who are 'happier men' than him and why would they be happier?
- (vi) How does this Act end?

(b) Mrs Higgins

You silly boy, of course she's not presentable. She's a triumph of your art and of her dressmaker's.

- (i) Who is not presentable?
- (ii) Explain the phrase: 'She's a triumph dressmaker's'.
- (iii) What does Colonel Pickering say in response to what Mrs Higgins says?
- (iv) How has 'the being spoken about' made herself useful in the Higgins household?
- (v) Later Higgins says he finds something 'quaintest of the lot'. What is he talking about? Why does he find it quaintest?

(c) Higgins

You infamous creature, how dare you accuse me of such a thing?
It is you who have hit me.

- (i) Why does Higgins call Eliza 'infamous creature'?
- (ii) How does Eliza answer Higgins?
- (iii) Eliza has earlier said, "There cant be any feelings between the like of you and the like of me." Explain the difference between the 'like of you' and the 'like of me'.
- (iv) Who is waiting outside 27 A Wimpole Street? Why?
- (v) What does Eliza ask the person who is waiting outside the house?
- (vi) Where do the two of them go straight from Wimpole Street?

SECTION B

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

Macbeth – Shakespeare

Question 3

Give a vivid and detailed description of the sleep-walking scene.

[25]

Question 4

Give a short account of the part played by the witches. To what extent do you consider them to have been responsible for Macbeth's crimes?

[25]

Pygmalion – Bernard Shaw

Question 5

Eliza Doolittle 'the squashed cabbage leaf' later is called 'a consort battleship.' With close reference to the play trace Eliza's growth from a 'squashed cabbage leaf' to a 'consort battleship'. Do you find her worthy of admiration? Give reasons.

[25]

Question 6

Discuss the issues resolved in **Act V**. Do you find the ending suitable? Give your opinion.

[25]

ISC Poetry – Ed – W.R. Gardner

Question 7

The poem '**He Fell Among Thieves**' celebrates universal values. Discuss this view with close reference to the poem.

[25]

Question 8

With reference to the poem '**Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard**', explain how Gray shows the beauty and greatness of the lives of the poor village farmers in contrast with the lives of the great.

[25]

Question 9

What are the events that influence Ruskin Bond's childhood? With reference to the poem, '**A Story of Lost Friends**' substantiate your answer. Do you sympathise with Bond's childhood sojourn? Give your view. [25]

Timeless Short Stories – Compiled by T.W. Phillips

Question 10

The '**Indian Camp**' brings out the endurance of an Indian woman and her husband's suicidal dissipation. Show how this story is a reflection of human suffering. [25]

Question 11

Describe the series of events that take place '**After the Dance**'. How does it change the life of Ivan Vasilievich? [25]

Question 12

With close reference to the story, '**My Brother Henry**' describe the circumstances under which the mistakes occurred and continued to occur which made Scudamour believe that the author had a brother named Henry. [25]