

ISC SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER FOR 2012 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 **two** of the passages (a) to (c) and answer briefly the questions that follow:

- (a) **Banquo:** Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair?—I'th' name of truth  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace and great prediction  
Of noble having and of royal hope  
That he seems rapt withal. To me you speak not  
If you can look into the seeds of time  
And say which grains will grow and which will not  
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear  
Your favours nor your hate.

(i) Where is Banquo? Who is referred to as "noble partner"? [1]

(ii) Who has started? What has this person just been told? [2]

(iii) Explain the lines:

I'th' name of truth  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? [1½]

- (iv) To what does Banquo refer to as “present grace”, “noble having” and “royal hope”? [2]
- (v) What is Banquo told by the creatures? What does his attitude tell you about him? [2]
- (vi) Give the meaning of the following words in the context of the passage:
- (vii) fantastical; rapt; favours [1½]

(b) **Macbeth:** If we should fail?

**Lady Macbeth:** We fail?

But screw your courage to the sticking – place  
 And we’ll not fail. When Duncan is asleep  
 Whereto the rather shall his day’s hard journey  
 Soundly invite him, his two chamberlains  
 Will I with wine and wassail so convince  
 That memory, the warder of the brain,  
 Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason  
 A limbeck only. When in swinish sleep  
 Their drenched natures lies as in a death  
 What cannot you and I perform upon  
 Th’un guarded Duncan? what not put upon  
 His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt  
 Of our great quell?

- (i) Where are Macbeth and Lady Macbeth? What is taking place there? [1]
- (ii) Which decision does Macbeth convey to his wife? How does she react to this decision? [2]
- (iii) Explain the lines:
- But screw your courage to the sticking place  
 And we’ll not fail [1½]
- (iv) Which plan does Lady Macbeth now proceed to reveal to her husband? [2]
- (v) How does Macbeth compliment her after listening to her plan? Does her plan ultimately succeed? [2]
- (vi) Give the meaning of the following words in the context of the passage: wassail; limbeck; drenched [1½]

- (c) **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.  
 To fright you thus, methinks I am too savage;  
 To do worse to you were fell cruelty,  
 Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you,  
 I dare abide no longer.
- (i) Where is the messenger? Whom does he address as "fair dame"? [1]
- (ii) What had the "dame" been complaining of just before these lines? [2]
- (iii) What do her complaints tell you about her nature? [2]
- (iv) Explain the lines:
- I am not to you known  
 Though in your state of honour I am perfect
- [1½]
- (v) Who is the source of danger that is threatening the lady? Why does this person want to harm the lady? [2]
- (vi) What is the lady's reaction to the messenger's words of warning? [2]
- (vii) Give the meanings of the following words in the context of the passage:  
 homely; fell; nigh [1½]

**Pygmalion — George Bernard Shaw**

**Question 2** [20]

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

(a) **THE FLOWER GIRL** (breaking through them to the gentleman crying wildly)  
 Oh sir, don't let him charge me. You dunno what it means to me. They'll take away my character and drive me on the streets for speaking to gentlemen. They---

**THE NOTE TAKER** (coming forward on her right, the rest crowding after him)  
 There! there! there! there! who's hurting you, you silly girl? at do you take me for?

**THE BYSTANDER** It's aw raw t:e's a gentleman: look at his be-oots.(Explaining to the note taker)She thought you was a copper's nark, sir.

- (i) Where are the flower girl and the Note Taker? Explain the circumstances, which led them to be there. [2]
- (ii) Why does the issue of the note taker bringing a "charge" against her arise? [2]

- (iii) What had the Note Taker been doing actually? What is the crowd's attitude towards him at this moment? [2]
- (iv) Who is a "copper's nark" ? [1]
- (v) Why does the bystander ask the other's to look at the Note Taker's boots? [1]
- (vi) How does the Note Taker proceed to win the interest and appreciation of the crowd? [2]
- (b) **HIGGINS:** Well, what have you to say to me?
- PICKERING:** Am I in the way?
- MRS. PEARCE:** Not at all, sir. Mr. Higgins, will you please be very particular what you say before the girl?
- HIGGINS (sternly):** Of course I'm always particular about what I say. Why do you say this to me?
- MRS. PEARCE (unmoved):** Noo sir, you're not at all particular when you've mislaid anything or when you get a little impatient. Now it doesn't matter before me; I'm used to it. But you really must not swear before the girl.
- (i) Where are the speakers during this conversation? Who is the girl? [2]
- (ii) Why has the girl come here? Where is she now? [2]
- (iii) What are Mrs. Pearce's objections about having the girl here? [2]
- (iv) Is Mr. Higgins right when he objects to Mrs. Pearce's words? Give one example from the play to support your answer. [2]
- (v) Which other bad habit of Higgins does Mrs Pearce talk about? [1]
- (vi) What is Higgins' reaction to Mrs. Pearce's observations about his language and behaviour? [1]
- (c) **HOST:** What do you say Professor?
- HIGGINS:** I say an ordinary London girl out of the gutter and taught to speak by an expert. I place her in Drury Lane.
- NEPOMMUCK:** Ha ha ha ! Oh, maestro, maestro, you are mad on the subject of cockney dialects. The London gutter is the whole world for you.
- HIGGINS (to the Hostess):** What does your Excellency say?
- HOSTESS:** Oh, of course I agree with Nepommuck. She must be a princess at least.

- (i) Where are Higgins and the other speakers? Why has Higgins come here? [2]
- (ii) Who is Nepommuck? How had he greeted Higgins? [2]
- (iii) Why does Nepommuck think that Eliza is of royal blood? [1]
- (iv) What had Higgins said earlier in the play about his ability to identify the origins of people through their pronunciation? [2]
- (v) What does Eliza tell Higgins when she wants to go home? [1]
- (vi) In what way had Pickering provided support and encouragement to Eliza during her test? [2]

## 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 encounter between the Witches and Macbeth and Banquo on the lonely heath. How do the prophecies of the witches affect the two generals?

#### **Question 4** [20]

Unable to completely trust Macduff when the latter visits him in England, Malcolm puts him through an elaborate test. How does Malcolm test Macduff's loyalty and integrity? What do you conclude about Macduff from this scene?

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

#### **Question 5** [20]

The Ambassador's Garden Party proves to be the final test of both Higgins' genius and Eliza's efforts. Do you agree? Refer closely to the scene in your answer.

#### **Question 6** [20]

Higgins teaches Eliza how to become a lady but Pickering treats her as a lady. Who contributes more to Eliza's transformation? Refer to relevant incidents in the play in your answer.

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

**Question 7** [20]

Though a passive character, Susan has a strong effect on Henchard's fortunes. Do you agree? Refer to the novel in your answer.

**Question 8** [20]

Referring closely to any two characters from the novel, comment on Hardy's skill in presenting rustic characters.

**Question 9** [20]

How appropriate is it that the novel should end with the future life and thoughts of Elizabeth –Jane?

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

**Question 10** [20]

What according to L.A. Hill are the principles of good writing? How can presentation help in writing well?

**Question 11** [20]

What are the different stages through which the modern civilisation has grown? Refer closely to Bertrand Russell's essay "Ideas that have helped Mankind" in your answer.

**Question 12** [20]

Nani Palkhiwala in his essay, "The Ailing Planet: The Green Movement's Role", calls man the "world's most dangerous animal". How does he defend his viewpoint and at the same time hold out hope for the world?

**HUES – An Anthology of Short Stories**

**Question 13** [20]

The short story 'Growing Up' charts the subtle shifts in the parent-child relationship as perceived by Robert Quick. Describe the events that lead to this new realisation about his daughters.

**Question 14** [20]

Referring closely to the short story 'The Portrait of a Lady' describe how the writer's grandmother remains an individual in her own right, refusing to be swamped by relationships, throughout the story.

**Question 15****[20]**

With close reference to the story, bring out the relevance of the title 'Castaway'.

**STARLIGHT – G.K. DANTES****Question 16****[20]**

'Frost at Midnight' enunciates the poet's dreams for his son. Describe the thoughts that rise in the poet's mind as he muses beside the fire.

**Question 17****[20]**

Referring closely to the poem 'The Raven', discuss how the poet invests the poem with an atmosphere of suspense and melancholy.

**Question 18****[20]**

Describe the poet's encounter with an old woman in a pilgrimage town in Kolatkar's 'An Old Woman'. How does the poet use this encounter to comment on contemporary civilization?