

ENGLISH
PAPER 2
(LITERATURE IN ENGLISH)
(Prescribed Textbooks)

23000445

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allotted: Three Hours

Reading Time: Additional Fifteen Minutes

Instructions to Candidates

1. You are allowed an **additional fifteen minutes** for **only** reading the question paper.
2. You must **NOT** start writing during reading time.
3. This question paper has **7 printed pages and one blank page**.
4. It has **five questions** in all.
5. Answer *all* questions.
6. While answering **Question 1 in Section A**, you are required to write **only ONE option as the correct answer**.
7. **Internal choice** has been given in the **long answer question** on Drama, Prose and Poetry.
8. **Do not exceed the prescribed word limit** while answering the questions in Section B.
9. The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [].

Instruction to Supervising Examiner

1. Kindly read **aloud** the Instructions given on page 1 to all the candidates present in the examination hall.
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SECTION A – 20 MARKS

Question 1

[10]

Choose the correct options for the following questions.

- (i) Which King of England is referred to by Malcolm as the one who “solicits Heaven” in Act IV Scene iii of the play, *Macbeth*?
- (a) William, the Conqueror
 - (b) King James I
 - (c) King Edward, the Confessor
 - (d) King Alfred, the Great
- (ii) In Act III Scene vi of the play, *Macbeth*, Lennox speaks with another Lord about the condition of Scotland under Macbeth’s rule. Which one of the following does their conversation focus on?
- (a) Praises for Macbeth’s leadership
 - (b) Fear of Macbeth’s tyranny
 - (c) Appreciation of Lady Macbeth
 - (d) Prosperity of Scotland
- (iii) What is the significance of the apparitions’ prophecies in Act IV Scene i of the play, *Macbeth*, for Macbeth’s character development?
- (a) They reinforce Macbeth’s belief in fate and destiny
 - (b) They make Macbeth suspicious of people around him
 - (c) They demonstrate Macbeth’s ability to control the supernatural forces
 - (d) They symbolise Macbeth’s descent into madness
- (iv) In Act V Scene v, what impact does the news of Lady Macbeth’s death have on Macbeth?
- (P) He controls his emotions.
 - (Q) He breaks down into tears.
 - (R) He becomes philosophical.
 - (S) He bursts out in anger.
- (a) Only (P) and (S)
 - (b) Only (Q) and (R)
 - (c) Only (P) and (R)
 - (d) Only (R) and (S)

- (v) Read the two statements from the short story, *Indigo*, and choose the correct option from the ones given below.
- Statement I:** 'I turned round and saw a truck standing behind. Why was it blowing its horn?'
- Statement II:** 'I went closer and had a good look at 'my' face. As I looked, a deep sigh rose from the depths of my heart.'
- (a) Statements I and II are similar.
 - (b) Statements I and II are not related to each other.
 - (c) Statement I is the reason for Statement II.
 - (d) Statement II is the reason for Statement I.
- (vi) In the short story, *The Medicine Bag*, why does Martin's Grandpa travel all the way from the reservation to the town?
- (a) He had run out of money.
 - (b) He had never seen a town.
 - (c) It was time to give the medicine bag to Martin.
 - (d) He wanted to meet his old friends.
- (vii) What does the line, 'Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree, if mankind perished utterly' from the short story, *There Will Come Soft Rains*, imply?
- (a) Nature's indifference to human existence
 - (b) Co-existence of nature and humans
 - (c) Human extinction predetermined by nature
 - (d) Nature's compassion towards humans
- (viii) In the poem, *Beethoven*, which one of the following **BEST** describes Beethoven's emotional and physical struggles?
- (a) Use of vivid imagery to depict Beethoven's internal and external battles
 - (b) Negative reviews of those who heard Beethoven's music
 - (c) Beethoven's rivalry with other musicians
 - (d) Recounting of the appreciation and honours Beethoven received
- (ix) In the poem, *Telephone Conversation*, how does the speaker's use of irony highlight racial prejudice?
- (a) Through a reference to the prices and location of the accommodation
 - (b) Through a description of the beauty of the city in contrast to his own experiences
 - (c) Through an emphasis on the racism underlying the landlady's words
 - (d) By pointing out the economic disparity between him and the landlady

- (x) In the poem, *Tithonus*, why does Tithonus call ordinary men 'happy'?
- (a) They live with their loved ones.
 - (b) They have the power to die.
 - (c) They can be reborn again and again.
 - (d) They have nothing to do with the gods.

Question 2

Complete the following sentences by providing a reason for each in brief. Do not write the question. [10]

- (i) In Act III Scene iv of the play, *Macbeth*, Macbeth hires spies in the homes of his nobles because _____.
- (ii) In Act IV, Scene ii of the play, *Macbeth*, Lady Macduff contrasts her husband to the 'wren' because _____.
- (iii) In Act IV, Scene iii of the play, *Macbeth*, Malcolm tells Macduff that he possesses all kinds of vices because _____.
- (iv) In Act V, Scene viii of the play, *Macbeth*, Macbeth tells Macduff that of all the people, he had avoided Macduff the most because _____.
- (v) In the short story, *The Cookie Lady*, Bubber seemed all tired after returning from Mrs. Drew's house because _____.
- (vi) In the short story, *Atithi*, despite Charushashi pouring ink on Tarapada's exercise book, Tarapada does not react because _____.
- (vii) In the short story, *There Will Come Soft Rains*, the house continues to function and perform daily tasks even after the family is no longer there because _____.
- (viii) In the poem, *Death Be Not Proud*, John Donne considers Death to be a slave to 'fate, chance, kings and desperate men' because _____.
- (ix) The poet in the poem, *Beethoven*, says that history is not important to know a man because _____.
- (x) In the poem, *Telephone Conversation*, the poet refers to Button A and Button B while commenting on the landlady's question because _____.

SECTION B – 60 MARKS
MACBETH – WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Question 3

- (i) In Act IV Scene i, what do the three apparitions predict? How far do the predictions prove to be correct for Macbeth? [5]
Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.
- Appearance and sayings of the apparitions
 - Implications for Macbeth
- (ii) How does Macbeth react in Act V when he realises that he has been betrayed by the witches? Do you think that justice is served? Give reasons. [5]
Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.
- The news regarding Birnamwood and Macbeth's reaction
 - Your opinion with reasons
- (iii) (a) How do Banquo's and Macbeth's soliloquies in Act III Scene i reveal their mental turmoil? Write your answer in 200 - 250 words. [10]

OR

- (b) Macbeth reaches the depths of evil in Act IV Scene ii. Analyse the statement in 200 - 250 words. [10]

PRISM- A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Question 4

- (i) Why did the narrator in the short story, *Indigo*, decide to visit Dumka? [5]
Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.
- Reasons to leave Kolkata
 - Promode's letter
- (ii) Had Bubber and his mother not made some crucial mistakes in the short story, *The Cookie Lady*, Bubber would have been unharmed. Discuss how their mistakes ultimately lead to Bubber's disappearance. [5]
Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.
- Bubber's repeated visits
 - His mother's attitude

- (iii) (a) In the short story, *There Will Come Soft Rains*, the McClellan family's artificially intelligent automated house reveals a lot about them. What do you infer about their lifestyle and personalities from the house? [10]
Answer in 200 - 250 words with close reference to the text.

OR

- (b) Martin's grandfather evolves from an object of pity to a source of pride in the short story, *The Medicine Bag*. Write your answer in 200 - 250 words. [10]

RHAPSODY: POETRY

Question 5

- (i) In what ways does John Donne overthrow the traditional perception of Death in the poem, *Death be not Proud*? [5]
Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.
- Comparison of Death to Sleep
 - Christian belief in eternal life
- (ii) Referring to the poem, *Beethoven*, show how Beethoven's physical challenges and traumatic childhood led to him becoming an outstanding musician. Answer in 100 - 150 words incorporating the following details. [5]
- Beethoven's father's role
 - The challenge of his deafness
- (iii) (a) The poem, *Tithonus*, explores the consequences of a boon granted without any thought. Discuss this statement with reference to the poem. Write your answer in 200 - 250 words. [10]

OR

- (b) What imagery does the poet use in the poem, *Small Towns and the River*, to signify the theme of immortality? Write your answer in 200 - 250 words. [10]