

**ISC SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATION**  
**SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**  
**ENGLISH**  
**PAPER 2**  
**(LITERATURE IN ENGLISH)**

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*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time allowed: One and a half hours*

*(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.)*

**ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY**

*The marks intended for questions are given in brackets [ ].*

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*Select the correct option for each of the following questions.*

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**SECTION A- THE TEMPEST**

1. Choose the correct option given below each question.

**[1x10=10]**

- (i) What is Ferdinand doing at the beginning of Act 3 Sc I?
- a) Cursing Prospero
  - b) Gathering wood
  - c) Crying
  - d) Plotting to escape
- (ii) Why has Prospero given him this task?
- a) To punish him.
  - b) To humiliate him.
  - c) To test his sincerity in love.
  - d) To take revenge.
- (iii) What is Ferdinand willing to become for Miranda?
- a) King of Naples.
  - b) A patient log- man.
  - c) Marry her and become her husband.
  - d) To be Prospero's slave for Miranda's sake.

- (iv) What does Ferdinand pray should happen if he speaks false?
- A blight will fall on him
  - The Gods will be angry
  - His best aspirations may be inverted to mischief.
  - Miranda will marry someone else.
- (v) Ferdinand shares a Latin root word to describe Miranda in Act III Scene I. Which word does he use?
- Beautiful
  - Admired
  - Dearest
  - Royal
- (vi) What does Stephano mean when he says that Caliban has “drown’d his tongue in sack” in Act III Scene II?
- He was drowned in a sack.
  - He had drunk so much that he could not speak.
  - He was lost in thought.
  - None of the above
- (vii) Which aspect of Caliban’s nature is revealed through his words, “bite him to death, I prithee”?
- Savagery
  - Uncivilised
  - Roughness
  - All of the above
- (viii) Why does Gonzalo say, “I need must rest me” in Act III Scene III?
- He is feeling sleepy.
  - He does not want to go with Antonio and Sebastian and Antonio.
  - He is exhausted.
  - He wants some time to look around the island.
- (ix) To whom is Alonso referring in Act III Scene III, when he says, “he is drown’d”?
- Prospero
  - Ferdinand
  - Adrian
  - Francisco
- (x) What do Antonio and Sebastian talk about while Alonso is resting in Act III Scene III?
- About abandoning the King’s party
  - About making another attempt to murder Alonso.
  - About seizing the island for themselves.
  - None of the above.

2. Read the lines given below and choose the correct option given after each question.

[1x10=10]

A. *Miranda: I am a fool*

*To weep at what I am glad of*

*Prospero: Fair encounter*

*Of two most rare affections!*

- (i) To whom is Miranda speaking?
- a) Prospero
  - b) Ferdinand
  - c) Ariel
  - d) Alonso
- (ii) Of what is Miranda glad?
- a) Ferdinand reciprocates her love.
  - b) That she can leave the island.
  - c) That her father has not been able to find out about her love.
  - d) That she will be the queen of Naples.
- (iii) What do her words reveal about her?
- a) She is simple.
  - b) She is ambitious.
  - c) She is humble.
  - d) She is compassionate.
- (iv) What is Prospero's reaction to her happiness?
- a) He is angry with his daughter for not following his commands.
  - b) He is happy with her.
  - c) He decides to punish her for confessing her love to Ferdinand.
  - d) He decides to put obstacles in the way of her love.
- (v) Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE about Miranda in the context of the quoted lines?
- a) She respects her father.
  - b) She has a streak of independence in her.
  - c) She is conniving
  - d) She has a soft heart.
- (vi) What does Prospero mean by "rare affections"?
- a) Interesting persons
  - b) Pure souls
  - c) Unusual emotions
  - d) Foolish sentiments

- (vii) For what does Prospero go on to ask heaven's blessings?
- For the love that is growing between the young couple.
  - For Ferdinand having come to the island.
  - For Miranda being so biddable.
  - For his efforts on their behalf, to unite the two lovers.
- (viii) What does Miranda ask Ferdinand at the end of the scene?
- She asks him to make her his wife.
  - She asks him to take her to Naples.
  - She asks him to take her away from her father.
  - She asks him to finish his task.
- (ix) What evidence do we have of Ferdinand's love for Miranda?
- He is willing to do the humble task for her in spite of being a Prince.
  - He is willing to elope with her.
  - He is willing to make her his wife against.
  - He shows the courage to fight Prospero for Miranda's sake.
- (x) When do the two plan to meet again?
- The next day
  - That evening
  - Half an hour later
  - They decide to be together.

B. *Antonio: I'll believe both*

[1x10=10]

*And what else does want credit, come to me,*

- (i) What has Antonio just seen?
- Ariel singing a song.
  - Ariel in the shape of a sea nymph.
  - Strange shapes bringing in a banquet.
  - The fact that their clothes are fresh even after the shipwreck.
- (ii) What is Antonio's attitude in these lines?
- Pleasure
  - Fear
  - Surprise
  - Scepticism

- (iii) What does Antonio refer to as “both”?
- a) Ferdinand and Miranda.
  - b) Unicorns and the Phoenix.
  - c) Ariel and Caliban.
  - d) Nymphs and Satyrs.
- (iv) How does Gonzalo interpret the sight he has just seen?
- a) He feels that they are agents of punishment.
  - b) He feels that they are islanders.
  - c) He thinks he has seen a vision.
  - d) He thinks that his eyes are playing tricks with him.
- (v) Who is listening to their conversation?
- a) Ariel
  - b) Caliban
  - c) Prospero
  - d) Ferdinand
- (vi) Alonso refers to the “dumb discourse” of the creatures. What does he refer to by these words?
- a) The signs made by the creatures.
  - b) The dances of the creatures.
  - c) The frightening gestures made by the creatures.
  - d) Their pleasant faces.
- (vii) What did the strange creatures bring for Alonso and his group?
- a) Flowers
  - b) Viands
  - c) Wine
  - d) Stones
- (viii) Why does Gonzalo say that Alonso need not fear?
- a) In their youth they had heard tales of strange people.
  - b) There are many kinds of people inhabiting the earth.
  - c) Since the island is a strange place, they should expect strange things here.
  - d) None of the above
- (ix) Why can't the king and his group eat the food brought in?
- a) They realise that the food is poisoned.
  - b) They find their hunger disappearing.
  - c) Suddenly the food vanishes
  - d) They are warned against eating the food.

- (x) What do you conclude about Gonzalo's nature from his interaction with the others in the scene?
- a) He is indifferent.
  - b) He is suspicious of everything
  - c) He always speaks against Antonio and Sebastian.
  - d) He tries to find good in everything.

## SECTION B

### ECHOES- SHORT STORIES

[1x10=10]

3. (i) In the short story, *To Build a Fire*, the protagonist travels alone. At what temperature is he warned against travelling alone?
- a) Thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit
  - b) Zero degrees Fahrenheit
  - c) Seventy degrees Fahrenheit below zero
  - d) Fifty degrees Fahrenheit below zero
- (ii) What are we told about Louisa Mallard right at the beginning of the story?
- a) She is ambitious.
  - b) She has a weak heart.
  - c) She loves her husband dearly.
  - d) She cannot tolerate noise.
- (iii) What is the term used for the Man in the short story, *To Build a Fire*?
- a) Novice
  - b) Outsider
  - c) Intruder
  - d) Chechaquo
- (iv) What is the breed of the dog which accompanies the man?
- a) Wolf
  - b) Husky
  - c) Great Dane
  - d) Alsatian
- (v) Who had warned the man against travelling alone in such cold weather?
- a) His mates
  - b) Another traveler
  - c) The Old Timer at Sulphur Creek
  - d) His dog

- (vi) What is Jack London's attitude to the Alaskan wilderness in the short Story, *To Build A Fire*?
- Horror
  - Fear
  - Wonder
  - Respect
- (vii) In the short story, *The Story of an Hour*, what is Mrs. Mallard's immediate reaction to the news of her husband's death?
- She just stared
  - She went to her room
  - She cried
  - She refused to believe it
- (viii) In the short story, *The Story of an Hour*, how was the news of her husband's death broken to Mrs. Mallard?
- It was read out from the newspaper
  - In a straightforward manner
  - Gently and with great care
  - In a roundabout manner
- (ix) How many characters are there in the short story, *The Story of an Hour*?
- One
  - Two
  - Three
  - Four
- (x) Mrs. Mallard, in the short story, *The Story of an Hour* spreads her arms out. Why does she do so?
- To keep her balance
  - To welcome her future
  - To enjoy the cool breeze
  - To express her love for her husband

4. Read the lines given below and answer the questions by choosing the correct option after each: **[1x10=10]**

*At the man's heels trotted a dog, a big native husky, the proper wolf-dog, gray coated and without any visible or temperamental difference from its brother, the wild wolf. The animal was depressed by the tremendous cold.*

- (i) What was unusual about the man's journey?
- The man did not know the region well.
  - He did not have the proper clothes for the weather.
  - He did not have required resources to reach the destination.
  - He did not have enough food.

- (ii) What is the setting of the story?
- In Canada
  - In the Yukon Valley
  - In Alaska
  - In the Arctic regions
- (iii) What do you conclude about the relation between the Man and the dog?
- There was a close bond between the two.
  - The dog was merely the toil slave of the man.
  - The dog was too wild to be tamed by the man.
  - The man completely ignored the dog.
- (iv) What was the dog's instinctive response to the tremendous cold?
- The dog was used to the cold and enjoyed it.
  - The dog's instinct told that it was no time for travelling.
  - The dog expected the man to keep them both warm.
  - The dog was indifferent to its surroundings.
- (v) In what way was the dog protected against the cold?
- It did not feel the cold.
  - It had a thick coat of fur.
  - It was used to the cold regions.
  - The Man was there to protect it.
- (vi) In what way did the dog come in useful to the Man at one point in the journey?
- It helped him to build the fire.
  - It offered him silent companionship.
  - It was made to go ahead to ascertain where the dangerous spots were.
  - It gave the man warmth when the man became numb because of the cold.
- (vii) The Man laughs off the advice given to him by the Old Timer. Which attribute of his character does this showcase?
- He is able to appreciate humour.
  - He does not have the intelligence to understand.
  - He is arrogant and too confident of himself to pay heed to others.
  - He is not a good listener.
- (viii) What did the dog do while the Man had his lunch?
- It kept watching the man.
  - It yearned for food.
  - It burrowed in the snow.
  - It kept looking in the direction of the camp.

- (ix) Why did the Man have to build a fire before having his lunch?
- a) He wanted to eat his food in comfort.
  - b) He had to thaw himself out.
  - c) He felt the fire would dispel the cold.
  - d) The Old Timer had told him to do so.
- (x) What is the theme of this story?
- a) The ignorance of Man
  - b) The overconfidence of Man
  - c) The conflict between Man and Nature
  - d) Nature as an enemy of Man

5. Fill in the missing information from the story *The Story of an Hour*.

[1x5=5]

(i) Mrs. Mallard was informed of her husband's death by.....

- a) Josephine
- b) Richards
- c) the newspapers
- d) Neighbours

(ii) The news of her husband's death was broken gently to her because.....

- a) she loved her husband dearly
- b) she had a weak heart
- c) they wanted to protect her.
- d) they didn't want her to faint.

(iii) Upon hearing the news, Louise Mallard.....

- a) broke into a storm of weeping
- b) refused to believe the news
- c) cried out her husband's name
- d) left the house immediately.

(iv) Mrs. Mallard welcomed the future stretching before her because.....

- a) she could be free to lead a life on her terms
- b) she could spend as much money she wished.
- c) she did not need to listen to a man
- d) she could travel to far off places.

(v) At the end of the story, the reader.....

- a) understands Louise Mallard's state of mind.
- b) feels sorry for Louise Mallard.
- c) empathises with her longing for independence.
- d) All of the above

**SECTION C**  
**REVERIE- POETRY**

6. Choose the correct option after each question: **[1x10=10]**
- (i) In the poem, *Crossing the Bar*, which voyage is the poet referring to?
- a) The voyage from life to death.
  - b) The voyage from the known to the unknown.
  - c) The voyage of self-discovery.
  - d) The voyage of adventure.
- (ii) Which childhood memory is the poet reminded of when he sees the bent birches in the poem, *Birches*?
- a) Playing in the open countryside.
  - b) Swinging on the birch branches.
  - c) Simple games of rural children.
  - d) Playing hide and seek in his childhood.
- (iii) What does the word 'coppice' mean in the first line of the poem, *The Darkling Thrush*?
- a) A dense forest.
  - b) Shrubs and bushes in the countryside.
  - c) An area of woodland.
  - d) Trees.
- (iv) In the poem *Birches*, what does the act of swinging symbolize?
- a) The desire for radical political changes.
  - b) The desire to change society.
  - c) The desire to escape reality.
  - d) The alteration of hope and despair.
- (v) In the poem *Birches*, what happens to the branches when they are bent too far?
- a) They break
  - b) They snap
  - c) They remain bent.
  - d) They grow in another direction.
- (vi) What does 'clear call' refer to in the poem, *Crossing the Bar*?
- a) The call of friends.
  - b) The call of Life.
  - c) The call of Duty.
  - d) The call of Death.

- (vii) In which context is the word “embark” used in the poem *Crossing the Bar*?
- To take a ride
  - To set out on the final journey
  - To walk.
  - To end a journey.
- (viii) What is NOT TRUE about the poet’s desire about his voyage in *Crossing the Bar*?
- He wants no sadness of farewell.
  - He wants a smooth passage.
  - He wants people to celebrate his passing.
  - He does not want any moaning of the bar.
- (ix) What impression does the poet create at the beginning of the poem, *The Darkling Thrush*?
- Of bleakness and desolation.
  - Of warmth and cheerfulness.
  - Of hope and happiness
  - None of the above
- (x) Why had people “sought their household fires” in the poem *The Darkling Thrush*?
- The cold forbidding atmosphere drove them inside.
  - They sought the warmth and fellowship of their fellowmen.
  - Their household fires were their only source of hope and sustenance.
  - All of the above.

7. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct option after each: [1x10=10]

*An aged thrush, frail, gaunt and small,  
In blast – beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom*

- (i) What was the poet doing when he heard the thrush?
- He was walking in the woods.
  - He was leaning on a coppice gate.
  - He was looking at the winter sky
  - He was looking at the bare branches.
- (ii) What did the poet say about the other human beings?
- The human beings were also walking in the woods.
  - They had sought the warmth of their household fires.
  - They were expressing their sadness about the current situation.
  - They were making merry.

- (iii) Where was the aged thrush?
- In the woods
  - Among the leaves.
  - Among the bare branches.
  - Hiding in the bushes.
- (iv) Which words does the poet use to describe the bird's song?
- A plaintive lament
  - Happiness unbounded
  - Full – hearted evensong
  - A dirge
- (v) How does the tone of the poem change with the reference to the bird?
- From sadness to happiness
  - From negativity to positivity
  - From despondency to hope
  - There is no change
- (vi) What does the “growing gloom” symbolize?
- The feeling of sadness
  - The feeling of despair
  - A growing sense of optimism.
  - A feeling of concern.
- (vii) What is meant by “blast-beruffled”?
- Blasted by the wind
  - Distressed by the blast
  - Disturbed by the wind
  - None of the above
- (viii) Why was the poet surprised upon noticing the “aged thrush”?
- The whole area was deserted.
  - It was too cold for anyone to be around.
  - The thrush was too old and frail to be out in such weather.
  - All of the above
- (ix) What is the poet's reaction upon listening to the bird's song?
- Happiness.
  - Surprise and wonder
  - Gloominess
  - Indifference

- (x) Why are the words, “chosen thus” significant in the poem?
- a) In spite of the gloom and despair, the bird chooses to sing joyously.
  - b) The bird seems to believe that all is not lost.
  - c) Through these words, the poet seems to say that there is hope amidst the gloom.
  - d) All of the above

8. Given below are sentences from the poem *Crossing the Bar*

Fill in the gaps in the sentences from the options given after each:

[1 x5=5]

(i) Sunset and.....

- a) Darkness
- b) Sleep
- c) Call of death
- d) Evening star

(ii) And one..... for me

- a) Opportunity
- b) Clear call
- c) More night
- d) More voyage

(iii) When I ..... to sea

- a) Set out for
- b) Put out
- c) Travel
- d) Go out

(iv) Too full for.....

- a) Any sound
- b) Sound and foam
- c) Any disturbance
- d) The crashing waves

(v) Twilight and .....

- a) Shadow
- b) Sadness
- c) Evening bell
- d) The noises of people