

# ISC Solved Paper 2022 Semester -2

## English Paper-2 (Literature)

### Class-XII

(Maximum Marks : 40)

(Time allowed : One and a half hours)

(Candidates are allowed **additional 10 minutes** for **only reading** the paper.

They must **NOT** start writing during this time).

Answer all questions in Section A and Section B.  
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

#### SECTION A

[8 Marks]

Answer all the questions.

1. Read the lines given below and answer the questions given after each:

(A) **Ariel** : Ay, my commander. When I presented Ceres,  
I thought to have told thee of it, but I fear'd  
Lest I might anger thee.

**Prospero** : Say again, where didst thou leave those varlets?

(i) Just before his conversation with Ariel, what did Prospero tell Ferdinand to do? [1]

- (a) To marry Miranda
- (b) To pick up some more logs
- (c) To rest in Prospero's cell
- (d) To come along with him

(ii) Whom does Prospero refer to as "varlets"? [1]

- (a) Antonio, Sebastian and Alonso
- (b) Stephano, Trinculo and Calibun
- (c) Ferdinand, Caliban and Sycorax
- (d) Gonzalo, Boatswain and the Harpy

(iii) What does Ariel's statement. "I fear'd / Lest I might anger thee" tell you about Ariel's attitude towards Prospero?

- (a) He is in awe of Prospero.
- (b) He is angry at Prospero.
- (c) He loves Prospero.
- (d) He loves to play tricks on Prospero.

Ans. (i) Option (c) is correct.  
(ii) Option (b) is correct.  
(iii) Option (a) is correct.

\* (B) "Cut another one! Please cut another one quickly!"

She stood still, staring at him. "Why, Mr. Klausner," she said, "what's the matter"  
"Please do as I ask," he said.

(i) What does Klausner ask the lady to do? [1]

- (a) Cut a tree
- (b) Give him a rose
- (c) Cut another rose
- (d) Cut a branch

(ii) Why does Klausner make this request to the lady? [1]

- (a) He enjoyed tormenting her.
- (b) He wished to declare his love to her
- (c) He wanted to impose his will on her.
- (d) He wanted to hear the shriek of the plant as she made the cut.

(iii) What was the Lady's opinion of Klausner? [1]

- (a) She respected him.
- (b) She found him funny
- (c) She found him peculiar.
- (d) She pitied him.

\* (C) "Yet we are the movers and shakers,  
Of the world forever, it seems."

(i) Whom does the poet term, "movers and shakers"?

- (a) Politicians
- (b) Rulers
- (c) Business magnates
- (d) Poets

(ii) Which places do these people frequent?

- (a) Sea breakers and streams  
(b) Public places

(c) Deserts

(d) Parliament

**SECTION B**

**[32 Marks]**

2. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible and with close reference to the relevant text.

- (i) In Act IV of the play, *The Tempest*, as the masque ends, state what Prospero tells Ferdinand about the impermanence of everything in the world. [4]  
(ii) Referring closely to Act V of *The Tempest*, relate what Ariel says about the condition of Alonso and his companions as they are trapped in the "line grove" beyond Prospero's cell. What is the effect of the description given by Ariel on Prospero?

Ans. (i) In Act IV, Prospero talks about the illusory nature of the world in general. Just as the spirits vanish after the revels on stage, the small acts of humans also disappear into thin air. Then he goes on to compare 'the baseless fabric of this vision' to 'the great globe itself'. The majestic mountains towering up to the clouds, the gorgeous palaces, the solemn temples, and whatever we inherit will dissolve into nothing. They are like the insubstantial pageant they have just witnessed- one minute appearing real, and the other minute, not a trace of it remains. Then he utters the profoundest lines in the play, "We are such stuff/As dreams are made on, /and our little life is rounded with a sleep." What he wants to convey is that, this life we spend on earth is ephemeral. It is a short period of time that bridges the sleep or darkness before our birth and the one after our death.

- (ii) Ariel gives a touching description of the state of Alonso and others in the lime grove where they are magically confined. They cannot move till Prospero releases them from their spell. Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio seem to be highly distracted, as though on the verge of madness and those who are with them crying over their pathetic state with grief and distress overwhelming their hearts. The most affected of them is the noble 'good old lord' Gonzalo with tears running down his cheeks. Ariel adds that Prospero's magic has so strongly affected them, that if he sees them in this state, he also would feel pity for them. Prospero reacts by saying that he also feels sympathy for them despite the fact that they grievously wronged him and his daughter. Although he was full

of revenge all these years, age has mellowed his feelings. He has gained enough maturity to realise, "the rare action is in virtue than in vengeance." Now that he has made them realise the magnitude of their sin, he asks Ariel to release them from their misery.

3. (i) Referring closely to the short story, *The Singing Lesson* state why the Headmistress called Miss Meadows to her office. How did Miss Meadows mood and behaviour change as a result of this visit?

- (ii) Is your reaction to Miss Meadows in the short story, *The Singing Lesson*, one of irritation or empathy? Give reasons based on the story, to support your viewpoint.

Ans. (i) 'The Singing Lesson' is a thought provoking story that delves into the mind of the protagonist Miss Meadows and how she is affected by a rejection letter written by her fiancé. Ever since she read that letter, she was in a foul mood, totally dejected. This affected her attitude towards her students who were gripped with fear at their teacher's suppressed fury. However, her mood changes after she is called to the office of the Head Mistress, where she gets to read a telegram sent by her fiancé. In that, he has briefly written that the earlier letter in which he called off the wedding was a mistake and he has resumed his plans of setting up their home; 'bought that hat stand today'. This dramatically brought a change in her mood. She feels elated, 'on the wings of hope, of love, of joy', and breezes into her class with renewed enthusiasm.

- (ii) It is totally understandable why Miss Meadows behaved in the way she did after reading the letter written by Basil, her young fiancé. He had given her such hopes; marriage was fixed and preparations of setting up their home also had started. She considered herself lucky to get a proposal from a young handsome man, especially when she had lost all hopes of getting married. So, the rejection came as a shock which she struggled to get in grips with. All her suppressed anger and disappointment came forth in her music class. Her suppressed emotions made her insensitive towards her young students. She urged them to sing 'Lament' in a more and more dejected tone. However, the lady's behavior

can be empathised with; it was her world of dreams that was crumbling. In fact, it is not her behavior but the fiance's insensitivity that is irksome. The way that he calls off the wedding and later on deciding to go on with it, with hardly any apology, is domineering and totally disgusting.

\*4. (i) Give at least four examples from the short story *The Sound Machine* to prove that Mr. Klausner, the protagonist of the short story, is an unusual person. [4]

(ii) With close reference to the short story, *B. Wordsworth*, relate the tale told by B. Wordsworth to the young narrator to justify the abundance of trees and bushes in his yard. Which aspect of the narrator's nature is revealed through his statement, "I understood his story"? [4]

Ans. (ii) The young boy of Miguel Street learns life's valuable lessons from his interaction with the poet B Words worth. The story the poet tells the boy about the trees and shrubs that surround his house alludes to nature conservation and the importance of old values and traditional way of life. When the boy asks the poet about the wild growth of greenery in his house premises, he tells him a love story-about him and his young wife who loved trees and other plants. The wife died along with the baby in her womb. Ever since he has not cut any of the plants in her memory. This is in contrast with the modern ways where memories die fast and some concrete structure comes up instead of preserving Nature. Thus, he impresses upon the boy the importance of simplicity, innocence and sensitivity. Two years later, the boy found "The mango tree and the plum tree and the coconut tree had all been cut down, and there was brick and concrete everywhere." It indicates the demise of an era in which people loved nature and

upheld human values. The development in urban areas seems a threat to the old world of peace and contentment. The boy is in same tune with the poet; he shares the same values such as love for nature, sharing and caring without falling prey to sheer commercialism.

5. (i) What does Matthew Arnold say about the role of the "Sea of Faith" in the past, in the poem, *Dover Beach*? What has happened to it now? How has this affected human lives?

\* (ii) Referring closely to the poem, *We are the Music Makers*, discuss why the poet has given a special place to the Music Makers in human lives.

Ans. (i) "The Sea of Faith/ Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore/ Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled." Thus muses Matthew Arnold in 'Dover Beach', but no more. Religious faith among the people of the modern world is ebbing. Darwin's theory of Evolution has upset the set of old beliefs and people stand confused in the darkling plains. When they had blind belief in God and Church, life was simpler, more secure and full of values. But now, he can only hear "Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar," exposing the 'naked shingles of the world.' This means the harsh realities render man sad and confused. Some have completely lost faith in God; some like the poet are wavering. The 'Sea of faith', once encircling the whole world, had given a sense of belonging, unity and tolerance. Now, listening to the sad cadence of the sea, he feels the world, seems to lie before him like a land of dreams, but "Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light, / Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;" He fears, humanity stands on a 'darkling plains wept with confused alarms of struggle and flight.' Here, "ignorant armies clash by night." Arnold blends sea and religious faith in a beautiful metaphor which leaves a lasting impact on the mind of the reader.

