

ICSE SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
ENGLISH PAPER - 2

Maximum Marks: 40

Time allowed: One and a half hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 10 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.

The paper has four sections.

***Section A** is compulsory – **All** questions in **Section A** must be answered.*

*You must attempt **one** question from each of the **Sections B, C and D.***

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

Question 1

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options. (Do not copy the question, Write the correct answer only.)

[10]

- (i) What was announced on the loudspeakers before the start of the race in the poem, 'Nine Gold Medals'?
- (a) The nationalities of the runners.
 - (b) The age of the runners.
 - (c) The names of the runners.
 - (d) The gender of the runners.
- (ii) Which of the following words would best describe Abou Ben Adhem?
- (a) Bold and brash
 - (b) Devout and compassionate
 - (c) Prayerful and anxious
 - (d) Dreamy and peaceful

- (iii) What event were the children in Ray Bradbury's story, 'All Summer in a Day' eagerly awaiting?
- (a) Their return to the Earth.
 - (b) The arrival of the Rocket people.
 - (c) Their teacher's return.
 - (d) The appearance of the sun.
- (iv) How old was Margot when she first arrived on his distant planet?
- (a) Five
 - (b) Seven
 - (c) Four
 - (d) Nine
- (v) What made Jesse Owens one of the best remembered athletes of all time?
- (a) His remarkable achievement of winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games.
 - (b) The amazing bond of friendship that he developed with arch rival Luz Long.
 - (c) His struggle to qualify for the finals of the broad jump at the 1936 Olympic Games.
 - (d) His anger at the rising nationalistic feelings that characterized the 1936 Berlin Olympics.
- (vi) "You should be able to qualify with your eyes closed." Who said these words and to whom?
- (a) Jesse Owens' coach to Jesse Owens.
 - (b) Luz Long to Jesse Owens
 - (c) Jesse Owens to Luz Long
 - (d) Hitler to Luz Long
- (vii) Antonio says that trying to reason with Shylock was like _____ .
- (a) standing on the beach and ordering the waves to wash away the sands.
 - (b) reasoning with a ewe which was crying out in distress at the loss of her lamb
 - (c) trying to soften a rock
 - (d) commanding the pine trees on the mountain side to remain quiet and motionless when battered by strong winds.

- (viii) Which of the following characters can be described as quick-witted, daring and loyal?
- (a) Nerissa
 - (b) Jessica
 - (c) Portia
 - (d) Leah
- (ix) Name the young lovers whose lives ended tragically because of a misunderstanding caused by the appearance of a lion.
- (a) Troilus and Cressida
 - (b) Pyramus and Thisbe
 - (c) Dido and Aeneas
 - (d) Medea and Aeson
- (x) What special 'deed of gift' does Jessica give to Lorenzo at the end of the play?
- (a) The news that Shylock had forgiven Jessica and Lorenzo for eloping.
 - (b) The bond signed by Shylock making Lorenzo heir to all his wealth
 - (c) The three thousand ducats that Antonio owed to Shylock
 - (d) The news that Shylock had agreed to become a Christian.

SECTION B

DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare - Acts 4 and 5)

Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Portia : The quality of mercy is not strained ;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath : it is twice blessed :
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes .
Tis mightiest in the mightiest ; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown :

- (i) Where does this scene take place? Why Is Portia here? [2]
- (ii) To what is mercy compared in these lines? [2]
- (iii) Why does Portia call mercy ‘twice blessed’?

Explain the lines: ‘Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
the throned monarch better than his crown: [3]

- (iv) Later in her speech Portia mentions a sceptre. What is a sceptre?
How, according to Portia, is mercy above the ‘sceptred sway’? [3]

Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

GRATIANO: *O learned judge! – Mark, Jew: a learned
judge!*

SHYLOCK: *I take this offer, then; pay the bond thrice,
And let the Christian go.*

- (i) Why does Shylock suddenly decide to accept this offer? [2]
- (ii) Who has made this offer? Who stops Shylock from accepting this offer? [2]
- (iii) Shylock decides to leave the court without even receiving the principal amount.
What other crime is he accused of? What further punishment does he face for this
crime? [3]
- (iv) Later in this scene, how does the Duke show that he is merciful?
What does Shylock say in response to the Duke’s act of mercy? [3]

SECTION C

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*He gave her a shove. But she did not move, rather she let herself be moved only by
him and nothing else. They edged away from her; they would not look at her. She
felt them go away.*

- (i) Who is 'she'? On which planet is this story set? [2]
- (ii) Mention any two ways in which life on this planet differs from life on earth. [2]
- (iii) Who are 'they'? Why did 'they' not come to her aid when William shoved her? [3]
- (iv) What do 'they' do to her at the end of the story? Why did they behave in this manner? [3]

Question 4

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

An angry athlete is an athlete who will make mistakes, as any coach will tell you. I was no exception. On the first of my three qualifying jumps, I leaped from several inches beyond the take-off board for a foul.

- (i) When and where is this narrative set? [2]
- (ii) What reason does the narrator Jesse Owens give for the heightened nationalistic feelings at this time? [2]
- (iii) In which event had Owens been confident of winning a gold medal? Why? [3]
- (iv) What had made Owens angry enough to make mistakes? Name Owens' rival who approached him at this point. [3]

SECTION D

POETRY

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 5

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
"What writest thou?"*

- (i) To whom did Ben Adhem address these words? Mention the context in which he said this. [2]
- (ii) What was the 'presence' doing in Ben Adhem's room? What did the presence say in response to Ben Adhem's question? [2]

- (iii) What did Abou ben Adhem say after this exchange? How did the presence respond to his words? [3]
- (iv) Describe the events of the following night. [3]

Question 6

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*All round the field spectators were gathered
Cheering on all the young women and men
Then the final event of the day was approaching
The last race about to begin.*

— *Nine Gold Medals*, David Roth

- (i) Where had the ‘young women and men’ come from? What had brought them together? [2]
- (ii) What was the last event of the day? How many athletes were participating in this event? [2]
- (iii) What happened to the youngest athlete half way through the race? How did he deal with the situation? [3]
- (iv) Describe the manner in which the race ends. [3]