PAUL ACADEMY

@ English Mines

SAMPLE PAPER NO. 2

ENGLISH PAPER 2 (ENGLISH LITERATURE) | ICSE Class 10

Practice for the ICSE Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 **Writing Time: 2 hours**

Reading Time: 15 minutes before the writing time begins.

Name: _____ Class/Section: _____

Instructions to candidates

Write your answers on separate answer sheets. Do not write answers during the reading time.

Section A is compulsory: answer all sixteen parts of Question 1.

Answer FOUR questions from Questions 2–7: choose at least ONE from Section B, ONE from Section C and ONE from Section D, plus ONE further question from any of these three sections.

Answer all five parts of every extract-based question you choose. Each complete question carries 16 marks. Total attempted: 16 + (4 × 16) = 80.

Marks are shown in square brackets. Answer with close reference to the prescribed texts.

Scope: the full prescribed Class X syllabus for 2027, including Julius Caesar Acts III–V and the Class X stories and poems in Treasure Chest.

An original Paul Academy practice paper.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 **[16]**

Choose the correct answer in each case. Write the part number and the correct option. Each part carries 1 mark.

(i) In Act III, Scene 3, why does the mob first identify Cinna the poet as a conspirator? [1]

(a) He carries a bloodstained dagger.
(b) He has the same name as one of the conspirators.
(c) He confesses to striking Caesar.
(d) He is wearing Brutus's cloak.

(ii) In Act IV, Scene 1, Antony compares Lepidus to an ass carrying gold. The comparison presents Lepidus as [1]

(a) the sole rightful ruler of Rome.
(b) a secretly wealthy enemy.
(c) an independent political thinker.
(d) a useful bearer of burdens who can later be dismissed.

(iii) What offence has Lucius Pella committed, according to the opening of Act IV, Scene 3? [1]

(a) Taking bribes from the Sardians.
(b) Refusing to fight at Philippi.
(c) Destroying Caesar's will.
(d) Stealing Brutus's book.

(iv) In Act V, Scene 1, which change in the birds accompanying the army troubles Cassius? [1]

(a) Swans replace sparrows.
(b) Doves replace ravens.
(c) Ravens, crows and kites replace the eagles.
(d) Eagles replace owls.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(v) In Act V, Scene 4, Young Cato announces his father's name chiefly to [1]

(a) ask Antony for employment.
(b) affirm the honour and courage he associates with his family.
(c) claim that he is Julius Caesar's son.
(d) disguise himself as Cassius.

(vi) In his final tribute, Antony distinguishes Brutus from the other conspirators by saying that Brutus acted from [1]

(a) fear of losing his money.
(b) personal envy of Caesar.
(c) a wish to become king immediately.
(d) an honest concern for the common good.

(vii) In With the Photographer, why can the narrator not see the picture immediately after it is taken? [1]

(a) The negative must first be developed.
(b) The camera contains no film.
(c) The narrator has lost his appointment card.
(d) The studio has been closed by the police.

(viii) At the beginning of The Elevator, the elevator is described as being able to carry only [1]

(a) one person.
(b) two people.
(c) three people.
(d) six people.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(ix) In The Girl Who Can, Kaya is [1]

(a) Adjoa's teacher.
(b) Nana's sister.
(c) Adjoa's running partner.
(d) Adjoa's mother.

(x) Why has Leonard Mead changed to sneakers for his night walks in The Pedestrian? [1]

(a) To qualify for an athletics team.
(b) To avoid the barking and attention caused by hard heels.
(c) To obey a police order about footwear.
(d) To leave clear footprints for the police car.

(xi) In The Last Lesson, what is lying across the pages of old Hauser's primer when Franz notices him? [1]

(a) His great spectacles.
(b) M. Hamel's ruler.
(c) A map of Berlin.
(d) A packet of medals.

(xii) In Haunted Houses, the two instincts that keep human lives in equipoise are the instinct that [1]

(a) forgets and the instinct that sleeps.
(b) fears and the instinct that attacks.
(c) enjoys and the nobler instinct that aspires.
(d) owns and the instinct that sells.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(xiii) Which pair of words forms an end rhyme in the opening stanza of The Glove and the Lions? [1]

(a) king / court
(b) ladies / beasts
(c) love / show
(d) sport / court

(xiv) In When Great Trees Fall, the sharpened memory dwells on kind words unsaid and walks never taken. These details chiefly express [1]

(a) resentment at having received too much advice.
(b) regret for opportunities to show affection that have been lost.
(c) relief at the ending of all relationships.
(d) the literal difficulty of walking through a forest.

(xv) In A Considerable Speck, what does the speaker finally do to the mite? [1]

(a) Leaves it undisturbed, hoping it sleeps.
(b) Seals it beneath a drop of ink.
(c) Feeds it to a bird.
(d) Places it inside a bottle.

(xvi) In The Power of Music, the fish dive below the lake in search of silence. This is chiefly an example of [1]

(a) a realistic account of fish learning songs.
(b) a historical allusion to a naval battle.
(c) comic exaggeration of the reach of the singer's noise.
(d) a comparison between two equally sweet voices.

SECTION B DRAMA

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 2 **[16]**

Read the extract from Act III, Scene 2 and answer all the questions that follow.

Antony: Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal.
To every Roman citizen he gives,
To every several man, seventy-five drachmas.

(i) Who is speaking, and on what public occasion? What does Caesar's seal suggest about the document? [3]

(ii) Explain "every several man". State the cash bequest and identify the additional property left for public enjoyment. [3]

(iii) Earlier, Antony says he must not read the will. Give two reactions he predicts it would cause and explain how his apparent reluctance increases its appeal. [3]

(iv) How does Antony's public use of the will contrast with his plan for its legacies in Act IV, Scene 1? Explain what this contrast suggests about his politics. [3]

(v) After the citizens leave with the body, Antony addresses "Mischief". Explain the personification and what it reveals about his responsibility for the disorder. [4]

SECTION B DRAMA

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 3 **[16]**

Read the extract from Act IV, Scene 3 and answer all the questions that follow.

Ghost: Thy evil spirit, Brutus.
Brutus: Why com'st thou?
Ghost: To tell thee thou shalt see me at Philippi.
Brutus: Well; then I shall see thee again?

(i) Whose ghost appears? What has Lucius been doing before falling asleep, and what is Brutus doing immediately before noticing the apparition? [3]

(ii) Give three signs in Brutus's words immediately before this extract that convey his uncertainty or physical fear. [3]

(iii) How has Brutus treated the sleeping Lucius just before the ghost appears? Give two details and explain what they show about him. [3]

(iv) When Brutus wakes his attendants after the ghost vanishes, do they confirm seeing it? Name two attendants and explain how their replies affect the audience's understanding. [3]

(v) In Act V, Scene 5, what does Brutus tell Volumnius about the ghost's appearances? Explain how his response develops the ominous meaning of this extract. [4]

SECTION C PROSE

Treasure Chest Short Stories

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 4 **[16]**

Read the extract from The Elevator by William Sleator and answer all the questions that follow.

> The stairs were no better. Martin tried them one day after school. There were no windows, and the lights were not working.

(i) How old is Martin, and on which floor is his home? What does he fear will happen to elevators even before he meets the woman? [3]

(ii) Describe the sound Martin hears on the stairs and the impression it creates. What is his physical condition when he reaches home? [3]

(iii) Give two features of the elevator's light, door or movement that make it unpleasant. Explain how either one heightens tension. [3]

(iv) Why does Martin begin taking the elevator again after trying the stairs? Explain the part played by his father's response and Martin's experience at school. [3]

(v) During Martin's first ride with the woman, how does she behave differently from the other passengers described earlier? Use two contrasts to explain how suspense is built through Martin's viewpoint. [4]

SECTION C PROSE

Treasure Chest Short Stories

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 5 **[16]**

Read the extract from The Girl Who Can by Ama Ata Aidoo and answer all the questions that follow.

> And my problem is that at this seven years of age, there are things I can think in my head, but which, maybe, I do not have the proper language to speak them out with.

(i) Identify the narrator and her relationship to Nana. What difficulty does she describe in the extract? [3]

(ii) What are Nana's two usual responses when Adjoa says something? Explain why neither response encourages the child to speak freely. [3]

(iii) How does Nana turn some of Adjoa's remarks into a public performance? Explain the contradiction that confuses Adjoa. [3]

(iv) Adjoa says that her legs need not be an issue for her "two favourite people" to fight over. Who are these people, and what two fears stop her from saying this? [3]

(v) How does the first-person child narrator expose weaknesses in adult communication? Develop two points, each supported by a different detail from the opening of the story. [4]

SECTION D POETRY

Treasure Chest Poems

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 6 **[16]**

Read the extract from When Great Trees Fall by Maya Angelou and answer all the questions that follow.

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

(i) What do the "great trees" represent in the wider poem? Explain why the reactions reach even distant hills. [3]

(ii) Explain the movements conveyed by "hunker down" and "lumber". Why is "even" significant before "elephants"? [3]

(iii) How do the "small things" react in the next stanza? Explain how this reaction goes beyond ordinary fear. [3]

(iv) When the poem turns to the death of great souls, how are breathing and sight affected? Explain the phrase "a hurtful clarity". [3]

(v) Later, the lost souls are associated with "nurture" and "radiance", while the survivors imagine "dark, cold caves". Explain the contrast and what it reveals about dependence on those who have died. [4]

SECTION D POETRY

Treasure Chest Poems

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 7 **[16]**

Read the extract from The Power of Music by Sukumar Ray and answer all the questions that follow.

When summer comes, we hear the hums
Bhisma Lochan Sharma.
You catch his strain on hill and plain from Delhi
down to Burma.

(i) Who is the singer, and in which season is his voice heard? Explain "strain" as used here. [3]

(ii) What does the range "from Delhi down to Burma" suggest? Name the principal device used and explain its comic effect. [3]

(iii) The listeners know the singing is "well-meant". How does their response make this description ironic? Give two details of their suffering. [3]

(iv) Give two examples involving land animals or birds that enlarge the disturbance beyond the human audience. Explain their effect on the poem's tone. [3]

(v) How is the title The Power of Music made ironic by the portrayal of the singer? Develop two points using different references other than the goat's final action. [4]

End of question paper