PAUL ACADEMY

@ English Mines

SAMPLE PAPER NO. 3

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 Brutus's funeral speech, the contrast between loving Caesar less and loving Rome more is an example of [1]

(a) onomatopoeia.
(b) antithesis.
(c) an animal fable.
(d) a stage direction.

(ii) At the opening of Act III, Scene 3, what has Cinna the poet dreamt? [1]

(a) He has feasted with Caesar.
(b) He has crowned Cassius.
(c) He has fought Octavius.
(d) He has sailed with Brutus.

(iii) In Act IV, Scene 1, which quality does Octavius cite in defence of Lepidus? [1]

(a) His skill as a poet.
(b) His control of the Senate.
(c) His proven courage as a soldier.
(d) His superior knowledge of horses.

(iv) Why does Brutus ask Cassius to speak softly before their armies in Act IV, Scene 2? [1]

(a) To hide an attack from Antony.
(b) To protect a sleeping messenger.
(c) To prevent Caesar hearing them.
(d) To preserve the appearance of unity among their troops.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(v) In Act V, Scene 1, what personal anniversary does Cassius mention to Messala? [1]

(a) His wedding anniversary.
(b) His birthday.
(c) His first election as consul.
(d) His departure from Rome.

(vi) What earlier bond does Brutus recall when appealing to Volumnius in Act V, Scene 5? [1]

(a) They had attended school together.
(b) They had ruled Rome together.
(c) They had been imprisoned in Gaul.
(d) They had served as priests together.

(vii) In With the Photographer, sunlight enters the studio through a frosted skylight and is filtered through [1]

(a) a red silk curtain.
(b) a screen of leaves.
(c) a sheet of factory cotton.
(d) a pane of blue glass.

(viii) What colour is the woman's old coat when Martin first sees her in The Elevator? [1]

(a) Black.
(b) Red.
(c) Blue.
(d) Green.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(ix) In the opening of The Girl Who Can, Hasodzi is situated in which country? [1]

(a) Ghana.
(b) Nigeria.
(c) Kenya.
(d) Senegal.

(x) In which year is Leonard Mead's night walk set in The Pedestrian? [1]

(a) 1953.
(b) 2003.
(c) 2053.
(d) 2153.

(xi) In The Last Lesson, how long has M. Hamel served at the school? [1]

(a) Ten years.
(b) Forty years.
(c) Twenty years.
(d) Sixty years.

(xii) In Haunted Houses, which word means that the impressions cannot be physically touched? [1]

(a) Illuminated.
(b) Invited.
(c) Forgotten.
(d) Impalpable.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(xiii) In The Glove and the Lions, the Count is named [1]

(a) De Lorge.
(b) De Winter.
(c) De Vere.
(d) De Courcy.

(xiv) Which feature of When Great Trees Fall most clearly makes it free verse? [1]

(a) Every line has ten syllables.
(b) Every stanza ends with a rhyming couplet.
(c) The lines vary in length without a fixed rhyme scheme.
(d) All lines begin with the same word.

(xv) In A Considerable Speck, the phrase tenderer-than-thou chiefly mocks [1]

(a) the mite for moving too slowly.
(b) people who claim superior tenderness.
(c) the writer for using black ink.
(d) readers who dislike poetry.

(xvi) In the opening of The Power of Music, the sound relationship between comes and hums is [1]

(a) an end rhyme between separate stanzas.
(b) alliteration of initial consonants.
(c) an absence of sound repetition.
(d) internal rhyme within the opening line.

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 1 and answer all the questions that follow.

Antony: O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times.

(i) To whom is Antony speaking here? Who are the "butchers", and why is Antony alone with the body? [3]

(ii) Before Antony enters, what two assurances does his servant seek from Brutus? What personal guarantee does Brutus give? [3]

(iii) Give three conditions Brutus sets for Antony's funeral speech. [3]

(iv) Explain "bleeding piece of earth" and "ruins" as descriptions of Caesar. How does this language differ from "butchers"? [3]

(v) Does Antony's earlier handshake with the conspirators necessarily prove that he has accepted their cause? Give two reasons from his words in this scene for a qualified judgement. [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.

Brutus: O Cassius, you are yoked with a lamb
That carries anger as the flint bears fire;
Who, much enforced, shows a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again.

(i) What has Cassius just offered Brutus instead of gold? What does he ask Brutus to do with his dagger, and how does Brutus first respond? [3]

(ii) Explain the comparisons with a lamb and with flint. What does "straight" mean here? [3]

(iii) Why had Brutus wanted gold from Cassius? How does Cassius explain the apparent refusal, and what does this suggest about communication between them? [3]

(iv) What admission does Brutus make after Cassius asks whether he is merely an object of laughter? How do their next words signal reconciliation? [3]

(v) How does Brutus's disclosure about Portia deepen our understanding of his anger? Give the news, two causes he reports for her distress, and its effect on our judgement of him. [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 Pedestrian by Ray Bradbury and answer all the questions that follow.

> "No profession," said the police car, as if talking to itself. The light held him fixed, like a museum specimen, needle thrust through chest.

(i) What profession has Mead claimed? Why does the car dismiss it, and what has happened to books and magazines? [3]

(ii) Identify and explain the comparison with a museum specimen. How does it convey the imbalance of power at this moment? [3]

(iii) How does the car answer Mead's reasons for walking for air and to see? What assumption about life does its reply reveal? [3]

(iv) What does Mead discover about the occupants of the car? Give two details of the rear compartment that make it resemble a place of confinement. [3]

(v) Where is Mead being taken? Explain how the destination's name and the car's refusal to explain itself make the arrest disturbing. [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.

> All this week, she has been washing my school uniform herself. That is a big surprise. And she didn't stop at that, she even went to Mr Mensah's house and borrowed his charcoal pressing iron each time, came back home with it, and ironed and ironed and ironed the uniform, until if I had been the uniform, I would have said aloud that I had had enough.

(i) Whose care of the uniform is described? What school selection has prompted it, and how did she check the news? [3]

(ii) How do Nana and Adjoa's mother differ in their views of schooling? Explain the mother's image of being "locked into some kind of darkness". [3]

(iii) What effect does "ironed and ironed and ironed" create? Explain the imagined complaint by the uniform and what both suggest about Nana's effort. [3]

(iv) How does Nana dress for the district sports afternoons, and where does she walk in relation to the children? Explain the impression her behaviour creates. [3]

(v) How does Nana handle the trophy on the return journey, and what does she do with it in the village? Explain the significance of these particular actions. [4]

SECTION D POETRY

Treasure Chest Poems

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 6 **[16]**

Read the extract from A Considerable Speck by Robert Frost and answer all the questions that follow.

A speck that would have been beneath my sight
On any but a paper sheet so white
Set off across what I had written there.
And I had idly poised my pen in air
To stop it with a period of ink
When something strange about it made me think,

(i) Where is the speck moving? Why is it visible to the speaker, and what does "poised" tell us about the position of the pen? [3]

(ii) Explain the two meanings suggested by "a period of ink". How does the phrase combine writing with a threat? [3]

(iii) What does "idly" suggest about the speaker's first impulse? How does the pause in "made me think" change the pace and moral seriousness of the moment? [3]

(iv) Later, the speaker says the mite "either drank or smelt". What does it encounter, how does it react, and what does "either" reveal about the limits of the observation? [3]

(v) Explain the contrast in "It ran with terror and with cunning crept." How do the verbs and their order make the creature's predicament vivid? [4]

SECTION D POETRY

Treasure Chest Poems

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 7 **[16]**

Read the extract from Haunted Houses by H. W. Longfellow and answer all the questions that follow.

These perturbations, this perpetual jar
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,
Come from the influence of an unseen star,
An undiscovered planet in our sky.

(i) Explain "perturbations", "perpetual" and "jar" as they are used in this extract. [3]

(ii) Identify the rhyme scheme of these four lines. Give both pairs of rhyming end words. [3]

(iii) How does the astronomical image explain an effect whose cause cannot be directly seen? Distinguish the image from a literal scientific claim. [3]

(iv) The sentence continues across the first line ending. What is this technique called? Explain how delaying "Come from" until line three shapes the unfolding thought. [3]

(v) Consider the phrase "Our little lives" in the preceding stanza alongside "our sky" here. How do the possessive pronoun and the contrast in scale shape the speaker's view of humanity? [4]

End of question paper