PAUL ACADEMY

@ English Mines

SAMPLE PAPER NO. 4

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 1, whose wish that the enterprise may thrive alarms Cassius? [1]

(a) Popilius Lena.
(b) Lucius.
(c) Strato.
(d) Messala.

(ii) In Act III, Scene 2, the mantle Antony displays recalls Caesar's victory over [1]

(a) the Sardians.
(b) the Nervii.
(c) the Parthians.
(d) the Prussians.

(iii) What does the intruding poet urge the generals to do in Act IV, Scene 3? [1]

(a) Destroy their letters.
(b) Surrender to Octavius.
(c) Love one another and be friends.
(d) Abandon all their soldiers.

(iv) In Act IV, Scene 3, whose death by proscription does Messala explicitly confirm? [1]

(a) Artemidorus's.
(b) Lucius's.
(c) Volumnius's.
(d) Cicero's.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(v) In Act V, Scene 2, Brutus sends bills through Messala. These are [1]

(a) written military orders.
(b) demands for payment.
(c) lists of theatre performances.
(d) copies of Caesar's will.

(vi) At the close of Act V, who offers to take Strato into his service? [1]

(a) Cassius.
(b) Octavius.
(c) Cinna the poet.
(d) Lepidus.

(vii) At the opening of With the Photographer, the photographer wears a [1]

(a) green coat.
(b) white uniform.
(c) gray suit.
(d) scarlet cloak.

(viii) When Martin first discusses the woman with his father in The Elevator, his father turns away from [1]

(a) a newspaper.
(b) a telescope.
(c) a kitchen stove.
(d) the television.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(ix) In The Girl Who Can, Adjoa detects her mother's inward weeping chiefly through [1]

(a) her voice.
(b) a written letter.
(c) a school report.
(d) a photograph.

(x) How many police cars remain in Mead's city in The Pedestrian? [1]

(a) Three.
(b) One.
(c) Ten.
(d) A hundred.

(xi) During the writing lesson in The Last Lesson, the children's response to the incoming beetles is to [1]

(a) run outside after them.
(b) ask for a holiday.
(c) continue working without attending to them.
(d) close the school immediately.

(xii) In Haunted Houses, ethereal air most nearly means air imagined as [1]

(a) heavy with industrial smoke.
(b) sealed in a bottle.
(c) filled with visible dust.
(d) delicate and spiritual.

SECTION A COMPULSORY

Question 1 continued. Each part carries 1 mark.

(xiii) What is the king's name in The Glove and the Lions? [1]

(a) Francis.
(b) Duncan.
(c) Claudius.
(d) Lear.

(xiv) In When Great Trees Fall, wizened most nearly suggests that the bereaved souls are [1]

(a) newly triumphant.
(b) shrunken and withered.
(c) physically invisible.
(d) carelessly amused.

(xv) In A Considerable Speck, which word rhymes with feet in the following verse line? [1]

(a) Fate.
(b) Sheet.
(c) Complete.
(d) Pen.

(xvi) In The Power of Music, calling the billy goat sagacious presents it as [1]

(a) sleepy.
(b) vain.
(c) musical.
(d) wise.

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: O, now you weep, and I perceive you feel
The dint of pity. These are gracious drops.
Kind souls, what weep you when you but behold
Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here!
Here is himself, marred as you see with traitors.

(i) What does "vesture" mean here? Explain "dint" and "gracious drops" in this context. [3]

(ii) Before displaying the mantle, how does Antony rearrange the crowd and his own position? Explain one dramatic effect. [3]

(iii) Why is "vesture wounded" an unusual description? Explain how it prepares for "Here is himself". [3]

(iv) What does "marred" mean? How do "Look you here" and "Here is himself" direct the audience's attention? [3]

(v) Explain how "and you, and all of us fell down" enlarges the meaning of Caesar's fall. Analyse the pronouns and the contrast with treason flourishing. [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 1 and answer all the questions that follow.

Octavius: Let us do so; for we are at the stake
And bayed about with many enemies;
And some that smile have in their hearts, I fear,
Millions of mischiefs.

(i) What immediate action is Octavius agreeing to? What news has prompted Antony to propose it? [3]

(ii) Explain the image of being "at the stake" and "bayed about". How does it portray the leaders' situation? [3]

(iii) What contrast is expressed by smiling faces and hostile hearts? What does "I fear" reveal about the status of Octavius's claim? [3]

(iv) Explain Antony's distinction between "covert matters" and "open perils". What response does he want for each? [3]

(v) How do "millions" and the hounding image together convey Octavius's anxiety? Give a separate explanation of each and their combined effect. [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.

> Martin hobbled to the buttons and pressed nine, but it didn't do any good. The elevator stopped at ten, where the fat lady was waiting for him.

(i) Why has Martin's father left the elevator at nine? What does he do while announcing his errand? [3]

(ii) What does Martin ask as his father leaves? Give his father's reply and explain how the closing door affects the exchange. [3]

(iii) Why does pressing nine fail to restore control? What two movements at ten prevent Martin from leaving? [3]

(iv) What is unsettling about the woman's final greeting? What else does she do in the last sentence? [3]

(v) How does the ending withhold resolution? Distinguish two things the text establishes from what remains unknown, and explain the effect. [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 Pedestrian by Ray Bradbury and answer all the questions that follow.

> The street was silent and long and empty, with only his shadow moving like the shadow of a hawk in midcountry.

(i) How does the hawk comparison animate the empty street? Identify the device and explain the significance of a single moving shadow. [3]

(ii) What landscape does Mead imagine when he closes his eyes? Explain the street image that accompanies it. [3]

(iii) How long and how extensively has Mead walked without meeting another walker? What does the encroaching vegetation suggest? [3]

(iv) Give two sensory details involving the leaf Mead picks up. What do they reveal about his attention? [3]

(v) Contrast the daytime insect image and the nighttime dry-stream image of the highways. What activity does each convey? [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.

It faltered: I could see it hesitate;
Then in the middle of the open sheet
Cower down in desperation to accept
Whatever I accorded it of fate.

(i) Explain "faltered" and "hesitate". How does their pairing shape the pace of this moment? [3]

(ii) Why does the "open sheet" offer no obvious shelter? Explain the contrast between its ordinary purpose and the creature's experience of it. [3]

(iii) Explain the posture suggested by "Cower down" and the emotional force of "desperation". How do these differ from confident acceptance? [3]

(iv) What relationship of power is suggested by "Whatever I accorded it of fate"? Explain "whatever" and "accorded". [3]

(v) Analyse the colon after "faltered" and the sentence ending at "fate". How do punctuation and delayed completion organise the observation? [4]

SECTION D POETRY

Treasure Chest Poems

Choose questions according to the instructions on page 1.

Question 7 **[16]**

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

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.

(i) Explain the metaphor in "peace blooms". What does the living, growing image suggest about peace? [3]

(ii) What do "after a period", "slowly" and "irregularly" each contribute to the description of time? [3]

(iii) Explain the unexpected combination "soothing electric vibration". How does it suggest a felt presence without describing a visible person? [3]

(iv) Immediately afterwards, the restored senses "whisper to us". Identify the device and explain how the verb affects the force of the message. [3]

(v) How do repeated "They existed" and the shift to "We can be" connect remembrance with responsibility? [4]

End of question paper