



# KARNATAKA ICSE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

## ISC STD. XII Preparatory Examination 2024

### Subject – ENGLISH PAPER II (LITERATURE IN ENGLISH) ANSWER KEY

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

Date: 04.01.2024

#### SECTION A – 20 MARKS

##### Question 1

Choose the correct options for the following questions: [10]

(i) In Act III of *The Tempest* Miranda says- “O my father, /I have broke your hest to say so!”- What had she done?

- (a) Revealed her identity to the strangers on the island.
- (b) Revealed to the strangers on the island that her father was Prospero.
- (c) **Told Ferdinand her name.**
- (d) Told Prospero that she had promised to marry Ferdinand.

(ii) Prospero: “We are such stuff

*As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep.” -----*

What Does Prospero talk about in the above lines in Act IV of *The Tempest*?

- (a) Power of magic.
  - (b) **Transitoriness of life on earth.**
  - (c) Power of imagination.
  - (d) Importance of youth, beauty, power.
- (iii) Caliban in Act III of *The Tempest* says “Thou makest me merry; I am full of pleasure/ Let us be jocund.” – Caliban is happy because

- (a) Stephano has punished Trinculo for misbehaving with Caliban.
- (b) Caliban will be a viceroy when Stephano will be king.
- (c) **Stephano has promised to kill Prospero.**
- (d) Stephano has bid him drink more.

(iv) Gonzalo: “*I’ the name of something holy, sir, why stand you/ in this strange stare?*”  
To whom does Gonzalo address these words to in *Act III of The Tempest*?

- (a) Antonio.
- (b) Sebastian.
- (c) **Alonso.**
- (d) Prospero.

(v) In the short story *B. Wordsworth* where did the boy meet the poet for the second time?

- (a) The boy’s house when he came to sell his poems.
- (b) The boy’s house when he came to watch the bees.
- (c) The boy met him in his neighbourhood.
- (d) **The boy met him at the corner of Miguel Street**

(vi) At one stage in the *Story of an Hour* why does Mrs. Mallard open and spread her arms?

- (a) To enjoy the cool refreshing breeze.
- (b) To show her attachment with her husband.
- (c) To welcome the spring season.
- (d) **To welcome the future that awaits her.**

(vii) In the short story, *Quality*, the Gessler brothers have been described as being-

- (I) Passionate
- (II) Hardworking
- (III) Humble
- (IV) Traditional and orthodox.

- (a) Only (I) and (IV)
- (b) Only (II), (III) and (IV)
- (c) **Only (I), (II) and (IV)**
- (d) Only (I) and (II)

(viii) In the poem *The Darkling Thrush* the speaker compares the landscape's sharp features to?

- (a) The end of the year.
- (b) The end of the century.
- (c) **A corpse.**
- (d) A broken lyre.

(ix) In the poem *Dover Beach* –the 'turbid ebb and flow' symbolises-

- (a) The beauty of the sea.
- (b) The poor upkeep of the shore.
- (c) The process of erosion.
- (d) **The confusion and distress in human life.**

(x) In the poem *Birches* the act of climbing and swinging from birch trees stands for

- (a) Youthful joy in old age.
- (b) **The speaker's desire to recapture youthful joy.**
- (c) The speaker's ambition.
- (d) The pleasures of living near a birch forest.

## Question 2

Complete the following sentences by providing a reason for each. Do not write the question. [10]

(i) In *Act III of The Tempest*, Caliban asks Stephano not to forget to seize Prospero's magic books before killing him because-

**Without the books Prospero is helpless and powerless and he will be unable to control the spirits of the island.**

(ii) In *Act IV of The Tempest*, Ceres has sworn to keep away from the disgraceful company of Venus and her blind son Cupid because

**she is angry with them ever since they contrived the plot by means of which Pluto, the dark God of the Kingdom of death carried away her daughter. (To keep away from their disgraceful company).**

(iii) In *Act 4 of The Tempest*, Prospero brought about an abrupt end to the masque because

**Suddenly, Prospero recalls Caliban, Stephano, and Trinculo's conspiracy to kill him. He calls an abrupt end to the festivities and the spirits vanish.**

(iv) In *Act V of The Tempest*, Gonzalo prays to some heavenly power to guide them out of the dreadful country because-

**he is bewildered and feels that the island is full of pain, perplexity, surprise, and astonishment.**

(v) In the short story *The Singing Lesson*, Basil thought that their marriage would be a mistake because-

**He had realised that he loved Miss Meadows as much as it was possible for him to love any woman. But he was not a marrying man and the idea of settling down with someone filled him up with nothing but disgust– “and the word “disgust” was scratched out lightly and “regret” written over the top.’**

(vi) In the short story *Quality*, the narrator did not need to go to Mr Gessler often because **He says it has not been possible to go to him much because the shoes he made have lasted very long and are the best of their kind.**

(vii) In the short story *Fritz*, Jayanto as a child had come to Bundi because – **his father Animesh Dasgupta worked in the Archaeological Department and his works sometimes took him to historical places, including Bundi.**

(viii) In the poem *The Dolphins*, the dolphins say, “We were blessed and now we are not blessed because-

**The dolphin reminisces the days when they were free from the clutches of man and swam the endless measures of the ocean but now, they are trapped and miserable in the artificial water tank.**

(ix) In the poem, *John Brown*, John tells his mother to recall the day he was leaving for war because-

**to remind her that it was she who thought going to war was the best thing thereby questioning her romanticised perception of war.**

(x) In the poem *The Darkling Thrush*, the poet says that there is “little cause for carolings of such ecstatic sounds because

**Although the poet acknowledges his inability to understand the cause of the birds joyful singing, it fills him with the feeling that there may be some cause for hope in the bird song.**

**SECTION-B (60 Marks)**

**THE TEMPEST-WILIAM SHAKESPEARE**

**Question 3**

- (i) What is the dramatic purpose of the masque arranged at the engagement of Ferdinand and Miranda? Write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. [5]

- **The masque is essentially a part of the comic structure of the play- Meant to provide entertainment also serves a dramatic purpose.**
- **The love episode between Ferdinand and Miranda has been made real and natural by the addition of the masque.**
- **It also helps in furthering the development of the love episode.**
- **It is included in tune with the general atmosphere of the play. The masque arranged by Prospero involves goddesses and nymphs - it provides the essential comic relief- builds up a romantic atmosphere.**

- (ii) Give the details of the conspiracy hatched by Caliban against Prospero. Write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. [5]

- **Caliban openly gives vent to his feelings about his master Prospero to his newly found 'God' in Stephano- he tells Stephano that once he was the ruler of the island but Prospero came and deprived him of his Island with the help of his magical powers.**
- **He asked Stephano to kill Prospero and become the king of the island. He assures him that he will serve him faithfully and devotedly. He discloses to Stephano that Prospero sleeps in the afternoon-which is the apt time for him to kill him. But he should take possession of Prospero's books because without it he is weak and helpless.**
- **In order to tempt Stephano to put into action his plan, Caliban refers to the beauty of Prospero's daughter Miranda-after killing Prospero Stefano can make Miranda his wife.**

- (iii) (a) Ariel though mischievous and playful is most sincere in his devotion towards his master. Write your answer in about 200-250 words. [10]

OR

- **Unlike most supernatural characters Ariel possesses many human qualities like-love for freedom, gratitude, sympathy, desire for praise, dedication to his master and faculty for mischief.**
- **2 aspects of his character which are most evident-his latent talent for mischief, sincere devotion towards his master Prospero.**

- Ariel's playful nature finds expression in his jest with which he performs his duties-troubling Caliban, Trinculo, and Stephano.
- The manner in which he gives an account of his duties shows that he enjoyed the fun of this foolery.
- Ariel though an ardent lover of freedom yet is bound to Prospero by a feeling of sincere devotion-performs tasks/duties sincerely/diligently most sincere in his devotion-though mischievous and playful.

(b) Critically review Shakespeare's use of supernatural elements in The Tempest. Write your answer in about 200-250 words. [10]

- In the play The Tempest right from the beginning to the end the element of supernatural dominates the actions. Much of the charm of the play is because of the supernatural.
- The play opens with a terrible storm which is raised by Prospero's magic. Ariel, the spirit of air, a slave of Prospero executes the storm with supreme finesse.
- Prospero the protagonist is a learned man expert in the science of the occult loses his Dukedom to his obsession with learning its art.-He saves Ariel from the curse of a witch, and make the son of that witch, Caliban a slave. -He masters the elements of nature making news of them at his own will.
- Prospero depends on Ariel to execute his plan of teaching a lesson to the scenarios who plotted against him. (Give examples from the text). - the banquet/the lost crew of the ship are accosted by a harpy who reprimands them for their misdeeds. They undergo transformation when they are in the lime Grove.
- Ariel's songs also have a great role to play-for Ferdinand is led to Miranda he also saves the life of Alonso by waking up Gonzalo with his song. He leads the 3 rogues to the dirty water.
- The masque plays a major role. Ariel gathers the spirits of the island-who put up an enchanting show of the celestial creatures of the mask take the play to an entirely different level.
- It suffices to say that the whole play hinges on the supernatural and the episodes are most gripping to the overall appeal of the play.

## ECHOES: PROSE

### Question 4

- (i) In the short story *The Singing Lesson*, Miss Meadows undergoes a change of moods. How does this affect her music lessons? Write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. [5]

- **The Singing Lesson reveals Katherine Mansfield's ability to capture a moment in time through the character of Miss Meadows who is going through a trauma in her personal life. Using symbols and interior monologue a regular singing lesson becomes a reflection /echo of the protagonist's state of mind.**
- **She is rudely shaken by a letter from Basil informing his inability to marry her-she plunges into deep despair and anguish.**
- **Miss Meadows carrying the burden of the contents of the letter, goes to take her music lesson--the students in contrast are lively and full of fun. Ignores the sweet gesture of her student greeting her with a yellow chrysanthemum.**
- **Asks the students to start singing 'A Lament' -without expression-they sing with mournful voices-some almost start crying.**
- **Her internal turmoil translates into the choice of the song for the days lesson.**
- **However, when she gets a telegram from Basil asking her to ignore the previous letter her mood and body language undergoes a complete transformation. She now holds the yellow chrysanthemum to her lips to hide her smile-her happiness is seen in the choice of song-**
- **She smiles broadly at her students and urges them not to look doleful, but to use their imagination and sing with joy and warmth.**
- **Basil's apologetic telegram uplifts Miss Meadow's spirits and when she returns to her singing lesson, the choice of song and behaviour reflects her changed mood.**

- (ii) ) Who is Shankar in the story *Fritz*? What kind of a man is he? What role does he play in the story? Write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words.

[5]

- **Shankar is Jayanto close friend and narrator in the story.**
- **His role in the story is significant from the beginning to the end-**
- **He is mature and sensible-narrates the account of his visit along with his friend to Bundi-reveals his keen observation and human interest.**
- **He is gentle and genial. His friendship reveals his true concern and care. (Give examples from the text.)**
- **He is basically a curious person-when Jayanto recalls his childhood memories he becomes anxious to know the details-he is a good listener and pays full attention to his friend's account with the doll Fritz.**
- **Unlike Jayanto he is rational and practical-(give examples from the text)**

- Ultimately, he takes the most practical decision to treat his friend's whimsical thought-by suggesting to dig the ground under the deodar tree where Fritz was buried.
- Shankar is quite tactful and persuasive at times- (give example from the text)
- Thus, the narrator proves to be a good friend, a helpful companion and a rational human being.

(iii) (a) "But she saw beyond that bitter moment, a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely." With reference to the quoted line how does Mrs. Mallard think of her future in the story *The Story of an Hour*. Write your answer in about 200-250 words. [10]

- Kate Chopin's stories often reveal the sexist societal norms and oppressed lives of women of the time. In the story of an hour through the character of Mrs Mallard, Chopin reveals the underlying repression in the lives of women during that time.
- At the outset Mrs Mallard is introduced as one who has no identity of her own and is only known as Mrs Mallard.
- The story subtly hints at a marriage that was stifling-that curbed her freedom of spirit and free will.
- Although Louise sobbed with wild abandonment mourning the death of her husband when the storm of grief passes, she looks out of the open window and in the new spring of life senses something that was approaching to possess her.
- Chopin suggests that the need for self-assertion and independence emerges stronger than that of a stifling and dominating marriage. Filled with the heady sensation of freedom, she forseees many years ahead that would belong to her alone, which she would live for herself.
- In a thrilling moment of clarity, she understands that nevermore she will have to sacrifice her own will to accommodate the more powerful one of her husband. In an exhilarating moment of self-discovery, she recognises her self-assertion as the strongest impulse of her being. She gets excited about her new life without her husband- breathes a quick prayer that life may be long, she looks forward to her life where she would live only for herself.

OR

(b) In the age of growing materialism and trendy fashion 'quality' has been pushed to the background. Discuss the plight of the Gessler Brothers in the light of this statement from the short story *Quality*. Write your answer in about 200-250 words.

[10]

- The thrust is on quantity rather than quality in our age. Gone are the days when a worker would make the whole product himself the division of labour has changed the whole ethos of work culture.



- In the story *Quality*, Galsworthy shows how the Gessler Brothers see the gradual decline in their business owing to the change in the work culture and people's attitude. No doubt they are artists in the true sense of the word. They take genuine pride in their profession of boot-making and give due respect to their trade. They are skilled workers .
- They own a small shop-2 shops combined into one-with a board Gessler Brothers outside the window and a few pairs of exotic leather shoes at the window. They are completely different from other shoemakers-they never make a shoe with inferior leather, nor do they keep a shoe that is not made by them. Besides, they make shoes only on order. Quality of the leather used is never compromised-each pair fits perfectly to the satisfaction of the customer.
- The Gessler shop was more like a place of worship-a place where the owner worshipped the shoes he made.
- They are search skilled workers that they can easily spot the point where the shoe might hurt the customer not only do they show concern for customers, they go out of their way to recompensate if there is any problem in their shoes made by them-(give example.)
- Though they pursue their trade devotedly and painstakingly they do not resort to unfair means-they refuse to change with changing times and thus end up paying a heavy price. They do not employ publicity and advertisement for lack of resources or their old-fashioned ideals- thus they face the stiff competition and bow to the new world where artistic pursuits is never given their due share value.
- The elder Gessler dies soon after his shop is snatched from him-the younger brother fades away from this world of commercial materialism.

### REVERIE- POETRY

#### Question 5

- (i) Discuss how in the poem *Dover Beach*, the poet, Matthew Arnold, repose his faith in love as the only ray of hope amidst the surrounding despair. Write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. [5]

- The world in which the poet finds himself is characterised by the lack of faith in God and religion. Once the whole world was full of strong religious belief which is fast declining. As faith recedes the harsh reality symbolised by the naked shingles leaves mankind sad and dejected. Without faith the world is hollow and uncertain, devoid of peace and happiness.
- The poet says that people on this earth are no better than two opposing armies fighting each other in total darkness blinded by the darkness of ignorance.

- **Arnold suggests that it is the only way to live in this world - is that one should love and remain loyal to each other-perhaps there is no other way.**
- **Arnold believes the world to be strangely unreal, without anything real to cling to, it has " neither joy nor love, nor light, /Nor certitude, north peace".**
- **With the retreat of religion causing a crisis of spiritual faith, the speaker turns to love as an answer for the loss of God. Perhaps, the poem suggests, love between people can compensate for the loss of the connection between God and mankind.**

(ii) Referring closely to the poem *The Darkling Thrush* comment on the significance of the happy song of the thrush in the poem. Write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. [5]

- **The theme of hope is introduced by the appearance of the songbird. The mournful mood of the poet starts changing. Seeing the thrush's ability to find and create beauty in a joyless landscape.**
- **Allows the poet to embrace the hope he can find in his own heart-The thrush's song uplifts his mood. He is appreciative to know there's something in the natural world to still give joy in life.**
- **The poor bird had nothing to look forward to yet it was singing a song of joy and hope - heart the poet is contented that at least someone had found hope in these cold sad times. A small bird could see a small quantum of hope which the poet is unable to see.**
- **Hopeful thoughts and cheer filled the atmosphere. The poet was unable to understand the ecstasy of the bird, however the bird was successful in lifting the poet's mood from melancholic state to a joyful one.**
- **Thus, the poem which began sorrowfully, ends with a note of hope-the poet's mood also changed from gloom to hope.**

(iii) (a) The poem *John Brown* presents two attitudes towards war. Describe the two attitudes. Which one do you sympathise with and why? Write your answer in about 200-250 words. [10]

- **In the poem John Brown, the poet Bob Dylan presents 2 contrasting attitudes to war-the glorious/romantic and the harsh reality of war.**
- **Most people have romantic notions about war-they believe that wars must be fought-it is during a war that one's valour and heroic mettle gets approval and recognition. A war hero is an honoured and revered person. The poet proves this notion of romanticism as false and hypocritical-John Brown's mother wants to see her son in the military uniform pinned with medals. Brown too is enamoured of military glory.**
- **John Brown's experience of war however dampens his heroic spirits-he soon realises that he is used as a mere puppet in the hands of the politicians-the soldiers are unaware of the purpose behind the war.**

- **John Brown returns home from the war and his mother goes to the railway station to receive him. When she sees him, she fails to recognise him-face is badly disfigured.**
- **John Brown puts the medals he has won into the hands of his shocked mother shattering the romantic illusion of heroism surrounding war.**

OR

(b) *The Dolphins* is a poem of protest against the slow destruction of nature and natural creatures by man. Discuss. Write your answer in about 200-250 words.

[10]

- **The Dolphins by Carol Ann Duffy is indeed a poem of protest against man's cruel treatment of animals. The speaker in this poem is a dolphin who is entrapped in a pool , in a water park. They are made to perform tricks to entertain the visitors.**
- **The dolphin represents all the dolphins in similar circumstances, thus giving expression to their longing for freedom. The dolphin makes it clear that they cannot be happy to swim around in a limited space and dance to the tunes of their trainers- their life is totally sad and hopeless- it predicts its own death in the artificial habitat.**
- **The poet draws our attention to the ill effects of keeping animals in artificial habitats- we must stop using animals for our entertainment and learn to live in peaceful co-existence.**

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