

ISC Class 12 English Paper 2

Question Paper with Solutions

Conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE)



Instructions to Candidates

1. It has **five questions** in all.
2. Answer *all* questions.
3. While answering **Question 1** in **Section A**, you are required to **write only ONE option as the correct answer**.
4. **Internal choice** has been given in the **long answer question** on Drama, Prose and Poetry.
5. **Do not exceed the prescribed word limit** while answering the questions in Section B.
6. The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

1. Choose the correct options for the following questions.

1 (i). What advice does Malcolm give to Macduff in Act IV Scene iii of the play, Macbeth when the latter learns about the murder of his wife and children?

- (a) To forget about the matter
 - (b) To change his grief into anger
 - (c) To forgive Macbeth for murder
 - (d) To report the matter to the King of England
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1 (ii). According to Lennox, in Act III, Scene vi of the play, Macbeth, why does Macduff live in “disgrace”?

- (a) He speaks tactfully and misleads Macbeth.
 - (b) He chooses his family over loyalty to the King.
 - (c) He is ambitious and wants the throne for himself.
 - (d) Macduff does not attend the banquet hosted by Macbeth.
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**1 (iii). “He cannot buckle his distemper’d cause
Within the belt of rule.”**

What does this statement by Caithness in Act V, Scene ii of the play, Macbeth imply?

- (a) He cannot control his temper any longer.
 - (b) Macbeth does not trust Lady Macbeth anymore.
 - (c) He is unable to rule without the help of witches.
 - (d) He cannot control his disorderly government even by force.
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1 (iv). In Act V Scene i of the play, Macbeth, what does the Doctor tell the Gentlewoman to ensure about Lady Macbeth?

- (P) To prevent her from visiting the witches**
- (Q) To take away any means by which she could harm herself**
- (R) To report her condition to Macbeth**
- (S) To always be watchful of her**

- (a) Only (P) and (S)
 - (b) Only (Q) and (R)
 - (c) Only (R) and (S)
 - (d) Only (Q) and (S)
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1 (v). Read the two statements from the short story, There Will Come Soft Rains, and choose the correct option from the ones given below.

Statement I: “...the solvent spread on the linoleum, licking, eating, under the kitchen door, while the voices took it up in chorus: “Fire! fire! fire!””

Statement II: ‘While scurrying water rats squeaked from the walls, pistoled their water, and ran for more. And the wall sprays let down showers of mechanical rain.’

- (a) Statements I and II are similar.
 - (b) Statements I and II are not related to each other.
 - (c) Statement I is the reason for Statement II.
 - (d) Statement II is the reason for Statement I.
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1 (vi). In the short story Indigo, what is Aniruddha’s reaction to the untimely visit by Uncle Mohit?

- (a) He ignores Uncle Mohit completely.
 - (b) He treats Uncle Mohit with courtesy.
 - (c) He requests Uncle Mohit to leave soon.
 - (d) He becomes distracted and forgets about the trip.
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1 (vii). Which one of the following BEST explains the reason for the efforts made by Grandpa to impress Martin’s friends in the short story, The Medicine Bag?

- (a) He enjoys the attention.
 - (b) He is proud of his heritage.
 - (c) He does not want to embarrass Martin.
 - (d) He wants to make the meeting memorable.
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1 (viii). What is the tone of the poet in the phrase ‘raven black’ in the poem, Telephone Conversation?

- (a) Ignorant and absurd
 - (b) Satirical and impolite
 - (c) Sad and disappointed
 - (d) Discriminatory but calm
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1 (ix). Which of the following companions of Death are mentioned in the poem, Death Be Not Proud?

- (a) Sword, water and fire
 - (b) Poison, war and sickness
 - (c) Accidents, bruises and tragedies
 - (d) Disease, mental health and wellbeing
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1 (x). Which one of the following characteristics of the ‘river’ differentiates it from ‘small towns’ in the poem, Small Towns and the River?

- (a) Its depth
 - (b) Its strong current
 - (c) Its ever flowing nature
 - (d) Its crystal blue colour
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2. Complete the following sentences by providing a reason for each in brief. Do not write the question.

2 (i). In Act III Scene iv of the play, Macbeth, Macbeth says “The table’s full” because...

2 (ii). In Act IV Scene iii of the play, Macbeth, Malcolm tells Macduff that he has none of the “king becoming graces” because...

2 (iii). In Act V Scene v of the play, Macbeth, Macbeth is upset at the advancement of English troops because...

2 (iv). In Act V Scene vii of the play, Macbeth, Macbeth does not want to fight Young Siward because...

2 (v). In the short story, Atithi, Annapurna assumed that Tarapada's mother did not love him because...

2 (vi). In the short story, The Medicine Bag, Grandpa hid money in his boots because...

2 (vii). In the short story, The Cookie Lady, Bubber felt exhausted on his way back home after his meetings with Mrs. Drew because...

2 (viii). In the poem, Small Towns and the River, the poet says that 'The dead are placed pointing west' because...

2 (ix). In the poem, Tithonus, Tithonus says one should not disobey the laws of nature because...

2 (x). In the poem, Telephone Conversation, the speaker describes the landlady as 'Lipstick coated, long gold-rolled / Cigarette-holder pipped' because...

SECTION B – 60 MARKS

MACBETH – WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

3 (i). How do the repeated appearances of Banquo's Ghost impact the Banquet and Macbeth in Act III, Scene iv of the play?

Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.

- Repeated appearances of Banquo's Ghost
 - Impact of its appearances on the Banquet and Macbeth
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3 (ii). Referring to Act V of the play, Macbeth, describe the final confrontation between Macbeth and Macduff.

Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.

- Macbeth's unwillingness to kill Macduff
 - Macduff's revelations and its consequences
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3 (iii) (a). How do the actions and mental states of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth reveal their inner guilt? Answer in about 200 - 250 words by referring to the Acts studied.

OR

3 (iii) (b). Discuss how Macbeth's repeated visits to the three witches show his inability to take correct decisions and leads to his subsequent downfall.

Write your answer in 200 - 250 words by referring to the Acts studied.

PRISM- A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

4 (i). Why does Tarapada repeatedly leave his home and go on various adventures in the short story, Atithi? Why does he choose to stay with Motilal Babu and his family?

Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.

- Motivation behind Tarapada's repeated departure
 - Reasons for his stay with Motilal Babu
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4 (ii). Discuss the contents of the notebook that Aniruddha finds in the Dak Bungalow in the short story, Indigo. What do the contents reveal about the British planter?

Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words.

- Contents of the notebook
 - Characteristics of the British planter
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4 (iii) (a). How do Bubber's meetings with Mrs. Drew eventually lead to his tragic end in the short story, The Cookie Lady? Do you think his parents could have prevented the tragedy? Give reasons for your answer in about 200 - 250 words.

OR

4 (iii) (b). In the short story, The Medicine Bag, the author addresses the themes of cultural identity and generational differences. Discuss the statement in 200 - 250 words by making relevant references to the story.

RHAPSODY: POETRY

5 (i). How does the poet challenge Death in the poem, Death Be Not Proud?

Write your answer in a short paragraph of 100 - 150 words incorporating the following details.

- Reason for negating Death
- Any two instances of challenging Death

5 (ii). How does a boon become a curse for Tithonus in the poem, Tithonus?

Answer in 100 - 150 words incorporating the following details.

- Boon of immortality
- Implications of the boon on his life

5 (iii) (a). The poem, Beethoven, illustrates Beethoven's determination and his ability to adapt himself to circumstances to create divine music.

Justify the statement with close references to the poem, in about 200 - 250 words.

OR

5 (iii) (b). What do you infer about the speaker in the poem, Telephone Conversation? Do you feel that the landlady and the speaker could have come to a mutual understanding? Give reasons for your answer in 200 - 250 words.
