

**ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION  
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER  
ELECTIVE ENGLISH**

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*Maximum Marks: 40*

*Time allowed: One and a half hour*

*Candidates are allowed an additional 10 minutes for **only** reading the paper.*

*They must **NOT** start writing during this time.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets. [ ]*

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*Attempt **ten** questions from Section A on **any three** out of the five prescribed textbooks.*

*Attempt **three** questions from Section B on **any three** out of the five prescribed textbooks.*

***Do not attempt extra questions.***

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**SECTION A - 10 MARKS**

*(Attempt **any ten** subparts of Question 1)*

**Question 1**

**[10]**

**Choose the most appropriate option from among those given for each question or statement.**

**TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – Harper Lee**

- (i) Where do Scout, Jem and Dill watch the trial from?
- (a) The front row, behind their father
  - (b) From the courtyard of the court
  - (c) The balcony, with Reverend Sykes

- (ii) How has Mayella Ewell violated the social code of Maycomb?
  - (a) By making advances to a black man
  - (b) By falling in love with a black man who is already a married man
  - (c) By accusing her father of physical and sexual abuse
- (iii) What will Tom's sentence be if he loses his appeal?
  - (a) Life in prison without parole
  - (b) Seven years of hard labour
  - (c) Death
- (iv) Underwood's editorial likens Tom's death to
  - (a) cancelling "advertising and subscriptions".
  - (b) the "miscarriages of justice" for children.
  - (c) the "senseless slaughter of songbirds".

### **THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh***

- (v) Nirmal imagines teaching what myth and geology have in common in terms of
  - (a) goddesses, titanic elements, and scale of time.
  - (b) Bon Bibi, the "bagh", and "Kaliyuga".
  - (c) Vishnu, dwarfish elements, the Matla.
- (vi) What did Fokir give Tutul "as though it were a victor's spoils"?
  - (a) The tooth of a tiger
  - (b) The tail of a sting-ray
  - (c) The root of a mangrove
- (vii) According to Nilima, home is where she can brew a pot of tea.
  - (a) The underlined portion is correct and needs no change.
  - (b) The underlined portion is incorrect and should read as *the Orcaella are*.
  - (c) The underlined portion is incorrect and should read as *the Badabon Trust is*.

- (viii) “It took her a while to grow used to the feel of them but ... the pace quickened.”  
What is “them” and how did the pace quicken?
- (a) “Them” is Piya’s GPS tools that helped locate Orcaella pods faster.
  - (b) “Them” is crude oars and progress was quicker with two people rowing.
  - (c) “Them” is crabs in the net and the pace quickened once Fokir got his catch of the day.

### **A DOLL’S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen***

- (ix) Anne-Marie is
- (a) Nora’s nanny
  - (b) Nora’s maid
  - (c) Nora’s daughter
- (x) What dance will Nora perform at the party?
- (a) Tango
  - (b) Salsa
  - (c) Tarantella
- (xi) Why does Torvald sometimes wish that Nora's life were in danger?
- (a) She needs to learn what fear is all about.
  - (b) He likes it when she suffers.
  - (c) He wishes it so that he could be her saviour.
- (xii) Why does Mrs. Linde refuse to give up her position in the bank for Krogstad?
- (a) Because she was better at banking matters than Krogstad was
  - (b) Because Nora had asked her not to
  - (c) Because it would not be of any benefit to Krogstad

## **DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller***

- (xiii) Linda happily says that she cannot get over
  - (a) the shaving lotion in the house.
  - (b) the eggs frying for breakfast for everyone in the house.
  - (c) the boys leaving together at eight o'clock.
- (xiv) Willy declares he is "always in a race with ..."
  - (a) his dreams.
  - (b) the junkyard.
  - (c) other salesmen.
- (xv) For how many years had the Lomans been paying for the mortgage on the house?
  - (a) Nine years
  - (b) Too many to count
  - (c) Twenty-five years
- (xvi) Why does Linda applaud Willy's "spirit"?
  - (a) He is going to have dinner with his boys and discuss the Loman Line with them.
  - (b) He is going to knock Howard for a loop, and get an advance and a New York job.
  - (c) He is going to tell Howard off and get his salary back with a New York posting.

## **NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – *Ed. Chris Woodhead***

- (xvii) Man too is responsible for killing and slaughter as portrayed in
  - (a) *Ravens* by Ted Hughes
  - (b) *Crow Tyrannosaurus* by Ted Hughes
  - (c) *Pike* by Ted Hughes

- (xviii) W.H. Auden exercises the rhetorical power of poetry in *Refugee Blues* to address the
- (a) situation of Jewish refugees granted asylum in countries outside Germany.
  - (b) issue of Jewish refugees who were killed in the Holocaust.
  - (c) situation of Jewish refugee refused asylum in countries other than Germany.
- (xix) *Crow Tyrannosaurus* sequences the grotesque description of the circle of life as
- (a) insect – bird – cat – dog – man as slaughterhouse – worms stabbed by crow eating man’s decayed body
  - (b) bird - cat - dog - the man's body as a slaughterhouse- insects - finally man consumed by the very worms stabbed by the crow
  - (c) the man's very body as a slaughterhouse – insects - bird - cat - dog - finally man’s decay - worms stabbed by the crow.
- (xx) The poem *The Unknown Citizen* is presented
- (a) as an epitaph of a man identified merely by letters and numbers.
  - (b) as a paean to the common citizen asserting individuality.
  - (c) as a blues song lamenting the death of capitalism.

### **SECTION B – 30 MARKS**

*Attempt **three** questions from Section B on **any three** out of the five prescribed textbooks.*

### **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – Harper Lee**

#### **Question 2**

- (i) Illustrate with close reference to the text how Aunt Alexandra’s tea for her ‘missionary circle’ echoes the theme of social hypocrisy. **[10]**

**OR**

- (ii) Atticus emerges as a champion of justice and fairness. Comment on this observation, drawing upon his closing argument at the trial of Tom Robinson. **[10]**

## **THE HUNGRY TIDE: *Amitav Ghosh***

### **Question 3**

- (i) Describe Piya's interaction with Mr. Sloane. How is this incident significant to the novel? [10]

**OR**

- (ii) At the end of the novel, how does Kanai express his understanding of Piya's state of mind after the storm? What plans does Piya return to Lusibari with? [10]

## **A DOLL'S HOUSE: *Henrik Ibsen***

### **Question 4**

- (ii) Do you believe Torvald's "little skylark" was truly a helpless and incapable "silly girl"? Support your opinion with your reading of Acts II and III of the play. [10]

**OR**

- (ii) Briefly narrate the conversation between Mrs. Linde and Krogstad in Act III of the play to bring out its significance. [10]

## **DEATH OF A SALESMAN: *Arthur Miller***

### **Question 5**

- (i) Narrate Willy's conversation with Ben as it plays out in Willy's mind once Howard Wagner leaves Willy exhausted in the Wagner office. [10]

**OR**

- (ii) At the Requiem, how does Charley prove he was Willy's friend and truly understood him? [10]

## **NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY VERSE – *Ed. Chris Woodhead***

### **Question 6**

- (i) Who is the 'Unknown Citizen' and why has the state erected a monument in his memory in W.H Auden's *The Unknown Citizen*? [10]

**OR**

- (ii) Philip Larkin's *Dockery and Son* depicts Larkin's meditations on marriage and the children who are born of marriage. Discuss. [10]