



ENGLISH PAPER II
(Reading and Literature)
Three hours and a quarter

(The first fifteen minutes of the examination are for reading the paper **only**.
Candidates must **NOT** start writing during this time.)

Instructions:

1. This paper has four sections, **Section A** for Short Stories, **Section B** for Essay, **Section C** for Poetry and **Section D** for Drama.
2. In each section, there are two sets of questions: Set I and Set II. Set I comprises of **Question nos. 1a and 1b** and Set II corresponds to **Question no.2** across all sections.
3. You are required to answer **four sets** of questions in all, **one set from each section**. Your choice **must** include **one Set II question** (question no.2) from any section.
4. The choices offered are between the sets and not among the questions within the sets.
5. The intended marks for each question is given in brackets.
6. You are reminded to mention the section, question set number and question numbers before writing your response.
7. **You should begin each answer on a fresh page.**
8. No marks will be awarded for any extra questions attempted.

Section A: Short Stories

Direction: From the TWO SETS of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet. Answer the questions from the CHOSEN SET in this section with reference to the short story "Leaving" by M.G.Vassanji.

Set I

Question 1a

Direction: For each of the following questions there are four possible responses. Choose the correct response and write it in your answer sheets. **[1x5]**

1. How many children did the mother of protagonist have?
 - a. Two
 - b. Four
 - c. Five
 - d. Three

2. The mother of the protagonist lost her husband at the age of _____.
 - a. Thirty-one
 - b. Thirty-two
 - c. Thirty-four
 - d. Thirty-three

3. "A bird flapping its wings"- symbolically represents ____
 - a. Velji
 - b. Firoz
 - c. Vassanji
 - d. Aloo

4. ____ was a wealthy housewife in Tanga
 - a. Mehroon
 - b. Razia
 - c. Vassanji
 - d. Firoz

5. Pick out the word which means "materials for writing and other items used in office".
 - a. Statuary
 - b. Statutory
 - c. Stationary
 - d. Stationery

Question 1b

1. "... but if you send him, you will lose our son"- Give an analysis of the story "Leaving" in the light of the given extract. [4x5]
[5]

2. How did Aloo's mother react to his request for going abroad for higher studies? [5]

3. "Conflicts arise but can be overcome with rational thinking and consideration," Analyze the statement with reference to the story. [5]

4. Why does Aloo raise his voice against his mother? Do you think it was right on his part to do that? Justify your answer with reference to the story. [5]

Set II

1. "A bird flapping its wings: Mr.Velji nodding wisely in his chair, mother staring into the distance." – Discuss the symbolism of the bird in relation to the story and the different feelings which the mother and Mr.Velji must be undergoing. [10]

2. Mothers seem to sacrifice so much for their children's happiness. Do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer with reference to the story. [15]

Section B: Essay

Directions: Read the essay given below carefully. From the two sets of questions on this text, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet [25]

Rejuvenating Life through Good Health

Throw out the bottles and boxes of drugs in your house. A new theory suggests that medicine could be bad for your health, which should at least come as good news to people who cannot afford to buy expensive medicine. However, it is a blow to the medicine industry, and an even bigger blow to our confidence in the progress of science. This new theory argues that healing is at our fingertips: we can be healthy by doing Reiki on a regular basis as it is scientifically proven, economical and an effective method.

Supporters of medical treatment argue that medicine should be trusted since it is effective and scientifically proven. They say that there is no need for spiritual methods such as Reiki, Yoga, Tai Chi. These waste our time, something which is quite precious in our material world. There is medicine that can kill our pain, x-rays that show us our fractured bones or MRI that scans our brain for tumors.

We must admit that these methods are very effective in the examples that they provide. However, there are some “every day complaints” such as back pains, headaches, insomnia, which are treated currently with medicine. When you have a headache, you take an Aspirin, or Vermidon, when you cannot sleep; you take Xanax without thinking of the side effects of these medicine. When you use these pills for a long period, you become addicted to them; you cannot sleep without them. We pay huge amounts of money and become addicted instead of getting better. How about a safer and more economical way of healing? When doing Reiki to yourself, you do not need anything except your energy so it is very economical. As for its history, it was discovered in Japan in the early 1900s and its popularity has spread particularly throughout America and Western Europe. In quantum physics, energy is recognized as the fundamental substance of which the universe is composed. Reiki depends on the energy within our bodies. It is a simple and effective way of restoring the energy flow. There are no side effects and it is scientifically explained.

Opponents of alternative healing methods also claim that serious illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and cancer cannot be treated without drugs. They think so because these patients spend the rest of their lives in the hospital taking medicine. How can Reiki make these people healthy again? It is very unfortunate that these patients have to live in the hospital losing their hair because of chemotherapy, losing weight because of the side effects of the medicine they take. Actually, it is common knowledge that except for when the cancer is diagnosed at an early stage, drugs also cannot treat AIDS or cancer. Most of the medicines these patients use are to ease their pain and their sufferings because of the medical treatment they undergo. Instead of drugs which are expensive and have many side effects, you can use your energy to overcome the hardships of life, find an emotional balance, leave the stress of everyday life and let go of the everyday worries. Most of the chronic conditions such as migraine are known to have causes such as poor diet and stress. Deep-rooted anger or other strong emotions can contribute to viral infections as well. Since balancing our emotions and controlling our thoughts are very important for our well-being, we should definitely start learning Reiki and avoid illnesses before it is too late.

Some people may still maintain that in our material world, everything depends on time. It is even “lacking time” that causes much of the stress that leads to the illnesses we mentioned. How would it be possible to find time to do Reiki to ourselves and the people around us when we cannot even find time to go to the theater? This is one good thing about Reiki; it does not require more than 15 minutes of our time. There is no need for changing clothes or special equipment. It is a wonderfully simple healing art, an effective method of relaxation and stress-relief. Most important of all, it is less time consuming than medicine if we think of all

the time we spend taking medicine for some complaints and taking some more for the side effects as well.

Having said these, resistance to Reiki would be quite illogical. Reiki is natural and drug-free. What is more, it is easy to learn by anyone, regardless of age and experience. It can be used anywhere, anytime. It also enhances physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being and the benefits last a lifetime. It is definitely high time to get away from the drug boxes we store in our drug cabinet!

SET I

Question 1a.

[1x5]

Direction: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct answer or response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

1. What does the new theory state?
 - A. Medicine could be bad for your health.
 - B. Medicine could be bad for your health but it is good for those who can't afford.
 - C. Medicine could be bad for your health but it is bad news for medical industry.
 - D. All of the above

2. What is the importance is of practicing Reiki?
 - A. No side effects
 - B. It is a simple and effective way of restoring the energy flow
 - C. It is economical
 - D. All of the above.

3. Migraine are known to have causes such as
 - A. Viral Infections
 - B. Headache and stress
 - C. Poor diet and depression
 - D. Poor diet and stress, deep-rooted anger and other strong emotions.

4. Supporters of medical treatment argue that_____
 - A. It is fastest method to heal
 - B. Medicine should be trusted since it is effective and scientifically proven
 - C. Spiritual healing such as Reiki doesn't work as effective as medicine.
 - D. It wastes our time.

5. Reiki is preferred over medicine because
 - A. It does not require more than 15 minutes of our time.
 - B. There is no need for changing clothes or special equipment
 - C. It is very cheap and affordable.
 - D. It is a wonderfully simple healing art, an effective method of relaxation and stress-relief.

Question 1b.

Directions: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them briefly.

[5x4]

1. How did Reiki come to practice?

[5]

2. How does Reiki, Yoga, Tai Chi help in overcoming the hardships of life? [5]
3. 'HIV/AIDS and cancer cannot be treated without drugs'. Why should one go for Reiki? [5]
4. Which would you prefer, Medicine or Reiki? Explain. [5]

SET II

Question 2 [25]

Directions: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them accordingly.

1. 'It is definitely high time to get away from the drug boxes we store in our drug cabinet!' Justify, how far is the statement true? [10]
2. Imagine you are a doctor to one of the wealthiest man in Bhutan. Your patient is going through mental excitement. Recommend Reiki your patient and persuade him in context to the passage. [15]

Section C: Poetry

Direction: Read the poem given below carefully. From the TWO SETS of questions on this poem, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet.

The Solitary Reaper

Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! for the Vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.

No Nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands
Of travellers in some shady haunt,
Among Arabian sands:
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?—
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago:
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been, and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang

As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending;—
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

- William Wordsworth

Set I

Question 1a

Direction: *Each of the following questions is followed by four responses. Choose the answer that best fits the question and write it in your answer sheet.* [1x5]

1. How does the poet know that the song is melancholic when he cannot understand the words?
 - a. From her tune
 - b. From her dress
 - c. From the girl's expression
 - d. From the words of the song

2. What effect does the girl's song have over the surrounding?
 - a. The valley is different
 - b. The song has no effect
 - c. All people desert the valley
 - d. The valley echoes with the song

3. What is cuckoo bird famous for?
 - a. For its cheerful nature
 - b. For its thrilling nature
 - c. Welcoming the spring
 - d. Driving away tiredness

4. According to the poet, nightingales sing
 - a. To please themselves
 - b. To welcome travellers
 - c. To welcome the tired travellers
 - d. To get relief from their own pains

5. What does the poet want to convey by "long after it was heard no more"?
 - a. Sad music is always remembered
 - b. Music is entertaining in every mood
 - c. The universal and permanent impression of music
 - d. Music is eternal and can give pleasure in every mood

Question 1b

Direction: Answer the following questions briefly. [5x4]

1. Why did the poet compare the song of the solitary reaper with those of the nightingale and the cuckoo – bird? What did he think of the maiden’s song? [5]
2. Where did the poet meet the solitary reaper? [5]
3. Why was the valley filled with music? Justify with reference to the poem. [5]
4. What were the poet’s first thoughts when he saw the solitary reaper? [5]

Set II

Question 2

Direction: Read the following questions carefully and answer them accordingly.

1. Do songs effect people’s emotions? Did the song affect the poet? Justify with reference to the poem. [10]
2. Create an original poem based on the theme “travelling and song” with 4 stanza with four lines each. [15]

Section D: Drama The Merchant of Venice- William Shakespeare

Directions: From the TWO SETS of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet.

Set I

Question 1

Directions: For each of the following questions there are four possible responses. Choose the correct response and write it in your answer sheets.

[1x5]

1. A drama “**The Merchant of Venice**” is
 - A. a comedy.
 - B. a tragedy.
 - C. a history play.
 - D. a tragic-comedy.
2. The word “**Argosies**” means
 - A. a disease.
 - B. a respected gentleman.
 - C. a merchant of Venice.
 - D. a large merchant ship.
3. When the play “**The Merchant of Venice**” begins, Antonio and Portia can be best described as
 - A. happy.
 - B. irritated.
 - C. ambiguous.
 - D. depressed and sad.

4. Bassanio wanted to borrow from Antonio
 - A. 1000 Ducats
 - B. 2000 Ducats
 - C. 3000 Ducats
 - D. 4000 Ducats

5. The date of composition of “**The Merchant of Venice**” is believed to be in the year
 - A. 1595
 - B. 1596
 - C. 1597
 - D. 1598

Question 1b

Direction: Read the questions carefully. Copy the question number onto your answer sheets and answer them briefly. **[5x4]**

1. Explain the dramatic significance of the opening scene of the play “**The Merchant of Venice**”. **[5]**

2. What are the various reasons advanced by Antonio’s friends Salerio and Solanio for his melancholy? What does Antonio say? **[5]**

3. How is Antonio related to Bassanio? Under what circumstances does Antonio agree to stand surety for borrowing money from Shylock? **[5]**

4. Do you find Bassanio an attractive and coherent character? Give a short note on the character and role of Bassanio in “**The Merchant of Venice**”. **[5]**

Set II

Question 2. **[25]**

Direction: Read the questions carefully. Copy the question number onto your answer sheets and answer them accordingly.

1. Describe any **TWO** suitors of Portia, the rich heiress of Belmont and explain her attitude towards them. **[10]**

2. Write a critical note on Antonio’s melancholy in the opening scene of “**The Merchant of Venice**” and the dramatic purpose which it serves in the play as a whole. **[15]**

Good Luck!