

**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.*
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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 in this section with reference to the story ‘Lamb to the Slaughter’ by Roald Dahl.*

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.*

- (i) Patrick Maloney was a
 - A businessman.
 - B policeman.
 - C director.
 - D writer.
- (ii) The main issues discussed in the story “Lamb to the Slaughter” are
 - A obligation and responsibility.
 - B deception and repercussion.
 - C sacrifice and compromise.
 - D revenge and deception.

- (iii) Patrick Maloney wants to leave Mary Maloney because
- A she was not loyal to him.
 - B he does not want to live with her.
 - C he was transferred to another place.
 - D he is in a relationship with someone.
- (iv) “Would you like me to get you some cheese? I haven’t made any supper.”
She did not prepare supper because
- A it was Thursday.
 - B she was not feeling well.
 - C they were invited for supper.
 - D she was waiting for him to return.
- (v) The irony at the end of the story is
- A Mary visiting the grocer.
 - B Patrick drinking excessively.
 - C the policemen destroying the evidences.
 - D Mary Maloney waiting for her husband.

Question 1b.**[20]**

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

- (i) Show any **two** contrasts in Mary’s character in the beginning of the story and at the end. (5)
- (ii) What is the setting in the beginning of the story? Explain the symbolic meaning of the setting focusing on any **two** observations. (5)
- (iii) If you were Patrick Maloney how would you have explained to Mary about your decision to leave her? (5)
- (iv) Is Mary Maloney a good wife? Justify your answer. (5)

Set II

Question 2.

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

- (i) The story ‘Lamb to the Slaughter’ is called a black comedy. Bring out the features of black comedy in the story. (10)
- (ii) Four years have passed since the murder of Mary’s husband. Describe a scene from Mary’s life focusing on the life she now leads and her feelings. (15)

Section B: Essay

Direction: 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.

Saving Earth from ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The smartest guy I know has written a great book. So the first chance you get, buy a copy of Peter Huber’s ‘Hard Green: Saving the environment from environmentalists’. The subject, ‘a conservative’s manifesto for the environment’, may sound a little dry, but it’s an excellent read. Huber explains with clear logic what so many of us have felt in our guts.

Huber, a former MIT engineering professor, shows why burning oil and smashing atoms are good for the environment. He also explains why encouraging solar power would lead to environmental disaster. In trashing another cherished urban myth, Huber explains why biotechnology is saving the environment, while trendy “organic” farming destroys wilderness.

Here’s the basic idea - if you want to save the planet, you have to use the efficiencies that come from technology.

Most environmental debates today involve claims of unseen chemical threats or predictions of doom at some unknowable future date. Huber moves beyond theories of environmental harm to focus on themes we can actually measure, such as the amount of wilderness in the United States. And he shows that modern environmentalism destroys wilderness areas because it forces us to use more land.

Take the energy needs of New York City as an example. Everyday, New Yorkers consume 55 watts per square meter of land. Since the best solar panels can only collect 20 watts per square meter per day, you’d have a hard time lighting the place with solar energy. Yes, you could cover

a lot of rooftops with solar panels. But even if you cover every square inch of the plaza, sidewalk, every street, all of Central Park- with photo-voltaic cells, you'd still need to clear a wilderness area almost twice the size of the city to deliver the necessary energy.

Well, you might say, solar panels will become more efficient in the future. Maybe, keep in mind that the sun only sends us 180 watts of energy per square meter per day. You can't turn up the volume on the sun. And even if you collect and store all of that energy with 100% efficiency (highly unlikely, as 20% is usually considered outstanding), you'd still have to clear-cut huge areas of wilderness to meet our energy needs.

That's because, right now, a coal mine yields 5000 watts per square meter per day, and an oil field yields close to 10,000. By digging down into the ground, by using the stored, concentrated solar energy of fossil fuels, we avoid clearing the land. We save wilderness. Nuclear power, extracting enormous amounts of energy from tiny uranium atoms, is the most environmentally-friendly resource of all.

The story is the same for high-tech farming. Outlaw pesticides, restrict the use of new technologies, and you deprive farmers of the tools they use to become more efficient. That means they will get less food from the same area of land. That means they need to clear more land to feed us. Low-tech farming may be popular, but it destroys wilderness.

Some critics will say that if we didn't have so many people on this planet, we wouldn't have this problem. We wouldn't need to use dangerous technologies to grow more crops or heat our homes. I think the burden of proof is on the critics. As the population has increased and technology has advanced, we have grown richer and healthier. And there is no limit to growth in sight. Even today, all of our homes, buildings and roads occupy less than 3% of the land in the lower 48 states.

Other critics will say burning fossil fuels may save wilderness areas, but it also dumps CO₂ into the atmosphere and causes global warming. If you believe the theory, here's the good news: thanks to efficient use of land, we have lots of trees in the US, so we actually consume more CO₂ than we produce. Scientists call the USA a "carbon sink." You don't hear too much about it because it makes it hard to blame us for global warming.

After reading Huber's *Hard Green*, you will find it hard not to agree with him.

James Freeman,
<http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/columnists/freeman/ncjf57.htm>

Set I

Question 1a.

[1x]

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.

- (i) The subject of the book “Hard Green: Saving the earth from the environmentalists” is
- A an excellent read.
 - B an explanation of our gut feelings.
 - C a copy of Peter Huber’s “Hard Green”.
 - D a conservative’s manifesto for the environment.
- (ii) According to the essay, if we **do not** use technology, we
- A can save the planet.
 - B cannot save the planet.
 - C can promote organic farming.
 - D cannot promote organic farming.
- (iii) Efficiency of farming and its produce will be reduced if farmers are
- A allowed to use pesticides.
 - B allowed to use technology.
 - C not allowed to destroy the wilderness.
 - D not allowed to use pesticides and new technologies.
- (iv) In view of the idea expressed in the essay, which one of the following should a farmer choose?
- A organic farming
 - B high-tech farming
 - C use of solar energy
 - D destruction of wilderness
- (v) To solve the problem related to the use of solar panels, the **best** alternative would be
- A nuclear energy.
 - B fossil fuels.
 - C coal mines.
 - D oil fields.

Question 1b.

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

- (i) To which sub-genre does the essay belong? Bring out **two** features of the sub-genre from the essay in support of your answer. (5)
- (ii) “Low-tech organic farming may be popular, but it destroys wilderness.” How true is the statement with reference to Bhutanese farming practices? Give **two** points to support your answer. (5)
- (iii) Write a short article on how the essay affected your understanding of the environment and its conservation? (5)
- (iv) Why do you think scientists call the USA a “carbon sink”? (5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

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

- (i) List and explain any **five** commonly held ideas that have been challenged in this essay. (10)
- (ii) List **five** separate arguments and counter-arguments on environmental protection from the essay. Then suggest your own practical steps on these **five** issues. (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.*

Nothing Is Like Nothing Else

When I was young and knew no better
I was always wanting to compare this to that:
Hearts might be cold as ice cream cones:
Water shone like flashlights;
Autumn leaves were mustard
On the sky's blue china plate.

But now I know different.
Now I know that nothing is like nothing else.
A white plate is a white plate, smooth, glossy;
Snow is another whiteness: not powdery,
Not like wool or silk or feathers,
But like itself, cold, dense, soft,
And yet sometimes hard, sometimes pointed,
Reflecting the sky, which is not like blue nylon,
But has its own special colour, texture, absence of texture.
And there are so many objects,
So many whites, blues, transparencies,
That the eye and the mind must be careful,
Must work very hard not to be confused by them.

And when I get beyond objects
(Seashells, mirrors, bottles of ginger ale,
Daisy petals, and all the rest)
And try to consider minds and motives
And poetry and politics
And work and friendship-
Then language is difficult indeed,
Since minds are never alike
And never like snow.

*By Elizabeth Brewster
Imprints 11, Gage Educational Publishing Company, 2001*

Set I

Question 1a.

[1x]

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.

- (i) As a child, the speaker used to
- A day dream.
 - B compare things.
 - C know that things are different.
 - D think of hearts as ice cream cones.
- (ii) According to the poem which one is easier to explain?
- A politics
 - B motives
 - C the abstract
 - D concrete objects
- (iii) “Nothing is like nothing else” means
- A nothing should be overlooked.
 - B everything has its own beauty.
 - C everything has its own uniqueness.
 - D everything has its own significance.
- (iv) Which of the following sub-genres of poetry does the poem belong to?
- A Ode
 - B Lyric
 - C Ballad
 - D Sonnet
- (v) According to the poem which one of the following is **not** true?
- A A white plate is glossy.
 - B People’s minds can be alike.
 - C Water can shine like flashlights.
 - D Snow has its own special texture.

Question 1b.

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

- (i) “Then language is difficult indeed,”
What do you understand by the above line? (5)
- (ii) Write a stanza of **five** lines beginning: “When I was young ...” Your stanza should have at least one simile and one metaphor. (5)
- (iii) Applying the idea of a change in perception as expressed in the poem, write down **two** comparisons on how you see the world now and how you used to see it as a child. (5)
- (iv) The speaker in the poem states ‘minds are never alike’. What is your opinion? Justify your stand. (5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

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

- (i) What is the main theme of this poem? Explain. (10)
- (ii) The speaker says that language is difficult while trying to consider minds, motives and politics. Write your own understanding of minds, motives and politics to support the speaker. (15)

Section D: Drama

Direction: *From the two sets of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet.*

Set I

Question 1.

[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.*

- (i) The author and Ardele start quarreling in the beginning about
- A a letter.
 - B the weather.
 - C Ardele's sister.
 - D financial conditions.
- (ii) The man in black in the play is
- A Gustav.
 - B Gontran.
 - C La Surette.
 - D the housing inspector.
- (iii) *Man is alone, with his ridiculous freedom, and no one to call out to him in the desert.*
The person who states the above line is
- A Ardele.
 - B Gontran.
 - C the author.
 - D Maddame Besserabo.
- (iv) The maid in the play is always weeping because she is
- A pregnant.
 - B scolded by Ardele.
 - C seduced by Gontran.
 - D dismissed by the author.
- (v) At the end of the play, Ardele
- A leaves her husband.
 - B chases her husband.
 - C shoots her husband.
 - D stays with her husband.

Question 1b.

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

- (i) *Let's keep calm, Let's keep calm to the end.*
Define irony. Point out the irony in the situation indicated by the above statement. (5)
- (ii) Write **two** instances to show that Ardele is a comic figure. (5)
- (iii) If you were the author how would you treat the woman on the telephone? (5)
- (iv) Basserabo is a flatterer and a pompous character. Do you agree? Give **two** points to support your answer. (5)

Set II**Question 2.****[25]**

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

- (i) 'Episode in the life of an Author' is a farce - A sub genre of the Theater of the Absurd. Define 'farce' and elucidate any **two** features of a farce in the play. (10)
- (ii) *Man is alone, with his ridiculous freedom and no one to call out to him in the desert.*
Do you agree with the above statement? Justify your answer with **three** relevant points. (15)

