

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 *Woman Unknown* by Rabindranath Tagore.*

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) *“He would not hesitate to scrape the bottom of the family barrel for her sake” means he*
- A had been rich once upon a time.
 - B was a poor householder in Kanpur.
 - C would be willing to spend all his money.
 - D would be willing to spend a large sum of money.
- (ii) *Anupam never really grew up because*
- A his marriage had failed.
 - B he had lost his father as a child.
 - C he was spared of all responsibilities.
 - D he did not receive any love and affection.

- (iii) Kalyani decided not to marry because
- A of the wedding fiasco.
 - B she loved Anupam very much.
 - C of her commitment to educate girls.
 - D she did not wish to trouble her father.
- (iv) His uncle wished Anupam's future father-in-law to be a
- A rich man.
 - B respectable person.
 - C person who would accept an ordinary hookah.
 - D person with no money but who would provide money.
- (v) The story "Woman Unknown" is an example of a
- A fantasy fiction.
 - B science fiction.
 - C traditional realistic fiction.
 - C contemporary realistic fiction.

Question 1b.**[20]**

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

- (i) Why do you think Shambhunath Babu cancelled the marriage? Give **two** reasons. (5)
- (ii) Why is the epilogue important in the story? Give **two** reasons. (5)
- (iii) If you were Anupam, how would you have reacted to your uncle's behaviour before the marriage ceremony? Why? (5)
- (iv) Is Kalyani's decision never to marry justified? Why? (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 prompted Kalyani to dedicate herself to the education of girls? Explain. (10)
- (ii) Do you think Anupam is a flat and passive character? Why do you think so? (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.*

SHADES OF BEING HUMAN

Alice Walker and Maya Angelou are two contemporary African-American writers. Although almost a generation apart in age, both women display a remarkable similarity in their lives. Each has written about her experiences growing up in the rural South, Ms. Walker through her essays and Ms. Angelou in her autobiographies. Though they share similar backgrounds, each has a unique style which gives to us, the readers, the gift of their exquisite humanity, with all of its frailties and strengths, joys and sorrows.

Tragedy struck both of these women at the age of eight. Ms. Walker lost her sight in one eye. Ms. Angelou was raped. Each described the incident as part of a larger work. Ms. Walker related her experience in the body of an essay published in her book, **In Search of Our Mother's Gardens**. Ms. Angelou told her story as a chapter in her autobiography, **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**. Although both wrote about their traumatic experience, the way each depicted the incident was distinct and seemed to be told for very different purpose.

Alice Walker reports the facts to the reader with short sentences written in the present tense. She chooses words which elicit a forceful emotional response from her audience. For example, in telling how her brothers were given BB guns and she was not, Ms. Walker writes, "Because I am a girl, I do not get a gun. Instantly, I am relegated to the position of Indian." The word "relegated" causes the reader to be irate and indignant. Most people do not like being "relegated" to anything. Another illustration of Ms. Walker's use of dynamic words can be found in her description of the encounter with her parents following the accident. She speaks of being "confronted" by her parents. "Confronted" is a combative word. When people are confronted by others, they want to launch an attack. Her style and choice of words make the reader aware that she is alone and fearful. She is left to fight her battles by herself.

Maya Angelou narrates her account in a conversational tone. She uses the past tense which tells her audience "it's over" for her. Her words are free from severity. They encourage the reader to see hope in the midst of sadness. Instead of trying to elicit a particular emotional response, Angelou invites her audience to share in her thoughts and feelings. For instance, having given an account of the rape, she writes, "I thought I had died- I woke up in a white-walled world, and it had to be heaven." The reader feels a connection with her pain, yet realizes redemption lies close at hand. Whereas Walker tells how she was confronted by her parents. Angelou explains, "she [mother] picked me up in her arms and the terror abated for a while." There is no impression of combativeness. There is only tenderness and care. Once again, she invites the reader in. Walker

wants the reader to feel for her; Angelou wants her audience to feel with her. They achieve their objectives by directing the reader's attention to specific emotions.

The emotional focus of Alice Walker's story is rage, red-hot and isolating. As I read this piece, I became livid, not only at the thought of her devastating injury and her family's apparent disassociation, but also at Ms. Walker herself. It appeared to me that she never let go of it. Instead, she seemed to embrace her anger.

On the other hand, Ms. Angelou's anger is subtle and short-lived. Though I was incensed by what happened to her, she quietly insisted that I leave it behind. She concentrated less on her anger and more on the warmth and support of her family.

It would be impossible not to address the ways in which both women refer to the intense physical pain each of them suffered as little girls. Ms. Walker gives little description of her anguish, but I clearly felt it. When I read, "...I feel an incredible blow in my right eye..." and, "my eye stings and I cover it with my hand," my immediate response was to quickly cover my eye with my hand. My body reacted to her pain.

Ms. Angelou's description produced another effect. She wrote, "Then there was the pain. A breaking and entering when even the senses are torn apart." Instead of a physical reaction, I felt a wrenching of the heart. Ms. Walker focused my attention on the injury to her body, while Ms. Angelou focused on her emotional scars.

My most powerful emotional response throughout both stories was one of incredible sorrow. I felt the tremendous weight that sadness and despair can fold around a heart, not only for a child's trauma, but also for the devastating repercussions that tragedy can produce – loss of dignity, self-esteem, and childhood itself. I wanted to comfort them both. However, by the end of Ms. Walker's account of the incident, I not only wanted to comfort her, I wanted to shield her as well. Her wounds were still open. At the end of her narrative, she wrote, "Now when I stare at people – a favourite pastime up to now – they will stare back. Not at the 'cute' little girl, but at her scar. For six years, I do not stare at anyone, because I do not raise my head." I wanted to intervene and help her.

Although in Ms. Angelou's story I yearned to comfort the child, it was obvious that the adult Maya Angelou did not need my protection.

Alice Walker and Maya Angelou are both extremely courageous writers. From each we receive a rare and poignant gift. As her book suggests, Alice Walker challenges us to search for resolution in the face of loneliness and despair. Maya Angelou, who "knows why the caged bird sings," reminds us that loneliness and despair never have the last word. She gently points us to a window of hope. Both women bless us with shades of being human.

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) Maya Angelou and Alice Walker have written about their experiences through
- A poem and story.
 - B poem and drama.
 - C essay and autobiography.
 - D drama and autobiography.
- (ii) Alice Walker lost her sight in one eye at the age of
- A five.
 - B seven.
 - C eight.
 - D nine.
- (iii) The essay shows that both the writers had gone through
- A cheerful experience.
 - B traumatic experience.
 - C remarkable experience.
 - D challenging experience.
- (iv) The essay best fits the sub-genre of
- A anecdote.
 - B biography.
 - C autobiography.
 - D explanatory essay.
- (v) “Then there was the pain.”
The image used in the above line is
- A tactile.
 - B olfactory.
 - C gustatory.
 - D kinesthetic.

Question 1b.

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

- (i) Explain how Maya Angelou encourages her readers to see hope in the midst of sadness. (5)
- (ii) Compare the writing style of Maya Angelou with Alice Walker. Draw any **four** comparisons. (5)
- (iii) Had Alice Walker not lost her sight in one eye during her childhood, how different would her life have been? Your answer should focus on her life and career. (5)
- (iv) Whom do you admire more, Maya Angelou or Alice Walker? Explain why. (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) “Walker wants the reader to feel for her; Angelou wants her audience to feel with her.” Explain the line with examples from the text. (10)
- (ii) Suggest an alternate title for the essay. Justify the appropriateness of your title with reference to the essay. (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 Dead Woman

If suddenly you do not exist,
if suddenly you are not living,
I shall go on living.

I do not dare,
I do not dare to write it,
if you die.

I shall go on living.

Because where a man has no voice,
there, my voice.

Where blacks are beaten,
I can not be dead.
When my brothers go to jail
I shall go with them.
When victory,
not my victory
but the great victory
arrives,
even though I am mute I must speak:
I shall see it come even though I am blind.

No, forgive me.
If you are not living,
if you, beloved, my love,
if you
have died,
all the leaves will fall on my breast,
it will rain upon my soul night and day,
the snow will burn my heart,
I shall walk with cold and fire and death and snow,
my feet will want to march toward where you sleep,
but
I shall go on living,
because you wanted me to be, above all things,
untamable,
and, love, because you know that I am not just one man
but all men.

By Pablo Neruda ,The Captain's Verses, New Directions Publishing Corp, 1972

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 speaker in the poem is addressing
- A God.
 - B himself.
 - C his beloved.
 - D his fellow countrymen.
- (ii) Which of the following is true?
- A The woman mentioned in the title of the poem is alive.
 - B The woman mentioned in the title of the poem is dying.
 - C The woman mentioned in the title of the poem is already dead.
 - D It is impossible to tell whether she is already dead, dying or living.
- (iii) The poem has a
- A romantic tone.
 - B triumphant tone.
 - C melancholic tone.
 - D melodramatic tone.
- (iv) The poem is written from the point of view of the
- A first person.
 - B second person.
 - C third person.
 - D fourth person.
- (v) The poem 'The Dead Woman' is
- A a lyric.
 - B an epic.
 - C a ballad.
 - D a sonnet.

Question 1b.

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

- (i) Identify **two** lines from the poem that prove the speaker's genuine love for his woman and explain them in your own words. (5)
- (ii) Frame **four** questions that you could ask the poet that will help you to understand and appreciate the poem better. (5)
- (iii) Write a character analysis of the speaker basing your answer on what you understand from the poem. (5)
- (iv) If you were the woman in the poem, how would you feel about the speaker's sentiments towards you? Justify your response. (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) *"I shall go on living,
because you wanted me to be, above all things,
untamable,
and, love, because you know that I am not just one man
but all men."*

Explain the above extract in your own words. (10)
- (ii) After reading the poem carefully portray the time and the place you imagine the speaker must have lived in. Justify your response with reference to the poem. (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) Madam Bessarabo visits the author's house to
- A meet the author.
 - B talk about Romania.
 - C have his view on love.
 - D talk about his production.
- (ii) Why the mother wants to move away from the author's house is because
- A the author's house leaks badly.
 - B she does not get along with Ardele.
 - C she wants to live an independent life.
 - D she wants to get a house which she likes.
- (iii) The beginning of the play shows
- A that Ardele is an infidel.
 - B that the author has no feelings of love.
 - C that Ardele is not loyal to her husband.
 - D a misunderstanding between the author and Ardele.
- (iv) Which one of the following statements is **not** correct?
- A The author's mother has a grand house.
 - B Madame Bessarabo is a journalist.
 - C Gustave is a film producer.
 - D Paul Zed is an actor.
- (v) One of the ironies in the play is that
- A Ardelle cheats on her husband.
 - B La Surette had helped the author once.
 - C the author yells at the people to keep calm.
 - D an unknown woman constantly calls the author.

Question 1b.

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

- (i) You are Madame Bessarabo. Write a report for the newspaper based on your interview with the author. (5)
- (ii) Do you believe in Maddame Bessarabo when she tells the author, “I shall never betray,”? Why or why not? (5)
- (iii) How does the role of La Saurette contribute to the plot of the play? (5)
- (iv) If you were Ardele how would you have reacted to the problems which the author faces? (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) Identify **two** events in the drama which interested you the most and explain why. (10)
- (ii) How does the play project the emptiness and meaninglessness of the modern life? (15)