

**Appreciation of English Literary Texts – Paper I**

**Section A – Poetry, Prose and Drama**

Read the following extracts and answer all the questions given below them.

**I Poetry**

**I(i)** “We called thee fruitful, and that very while  
a desert fills our seeing’s inward span”

a. Name the poem which these lines are taken. Who is the author?

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b. Who is referred to as ‘thee’?

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c. Why is ‘thee’ considered as fruitful?

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d. Explain the phrase ‘seeing’s inward span’ in your own words.

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**I(ii)** “I want to be what I used to be,  
when I was like you. I want,  
to unlearn all these muting things”

a. From which poem are these lines taken? Name the poet.

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b. Who is referred to as ‘you’ in this excerpt?

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c. What do you understand by ‘muting things’ according to the poem?

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d. What is the attitude of the speaker towards ‘muting things’?

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**II Prose**

**II(i)** "I told you not to, now I tell you that you may.."

a.Name the text of the above lines. Who is the author?

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b.Who is the speaker of these words?

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c.To whom are the words spoken?

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d.What are the characteristics of the speaker? Name **two**.

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**II(ii)** "**They** were both lying on the gravel now, but I didn't call out to the driver to wait for them."

a.From which text are these lines taken? Name the author.

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b.Who are referred to as 'they' in these lines?

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c.Why did not the narrator call out to the driver to wait for 'them'?

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d.How do you feel about the behaviour of the narrator at this moment?

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**III Drama**

**III(i)** "Yes I've forgot when it was but some night when I was going to bed she'd dropped in and said she wanted to be my wife."

a.From which text are these lines taken? Who is the author?

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b.Who speaks these words?

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c.When are they spoken?

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d.Comment on the key dramatic technique used at this point in the drama.

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**III (ii)** "I gave him my youth, my happiness my life, my fortune, I breathed in him, I worshipped him as if I was a heathen"

a. Name the text from which these lines are taken. Name the author.

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b. Who speaks these words?

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c. To whom are they spoken?

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d. How would you describe the emotional reaction of the speaker to the person spoken of?

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### Section B - Novels

Read the following extract from **The Vendor of Sweets** and then answer all the questions given below it.

"The doctor made an impatient gesture, and said, "Go back, go back to your wife for the few hours left. Your son is watching us. Protect him."

Turning back from the car, Jagan saw Mali at the door with bewilderment in his eyes. It was harrowing to look at his thin, scraggy frame (he developed and grew tall and broad suddenly after his eighteenth birthday). The boy asked, "What did the doctor say?" He had been attending on his mother for many weeks now. In her **rare moments of lucidity** she beckoned to him, and accepted the diet if he fed her, rarely going out to play with his friends. At the boy's question, Jagan lost his nerve completely, held his son's hands, and broke into a loud wail. Mali had shaken himself off and watched his father from a distance with **a look of dismay and puzzlement.**"

1. When and where does this incident take place?

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2. How did Mali look after his mother?

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3. Explain the meaning of the following phrases as they appear in the context of the passage.

a. rare moments of lucidity

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b.a look of dismay and puzzlement

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4.How did this situation affect the relationship between Jagan and Mali? To what theme does this passage relate?

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සියලුම හිමිකම් ඇවිරිණි / முழுப் பதிப்புரிமையுடையது / All Rights Reserved]

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Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

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இலக்கிய நயம் ஆங்கிலம் I, II  
Appreciation of English Literary Texts I, II

### Appreciation of English Literary Texts - Paper II

#### Instructions:

- \* Answer *four* questions selecting *one each* from the four sections - POETRY, DRAMA, PROSE and FICTION.
- \* Answers to **Paper II** should be written in the given booklet.
- \* The maximum mark allocated for **Paper II** is 60.

#### POETRY

(Answer *one* question only)

1. Describe how the poet presents the power and majesty of the eagle in 'The Eagle'.
2. Describe how the speaker's feelings and attitude towards the barn, the stack, and the tree are presented in 'Farewell to Barn and Stack and Tree'.
3. Describe the gap between how people perceive Richard Cory and the truth of his life in 'Richard Cory'.
4. Describe how the poem 'The Clown's Wife' shows the difference between a person's public image and private life.
5. Describe how the author uses humour to draw a parallel between the camel's behaviour and the events in 'The Camel's Hump'.

(15 marks)

#### DRAMA

(Answer *one* question only)

6. Analyse how *Twilight of a Crane* shows the conflict/s between duty and personal desire through the actions of its **two** main characters.
7. Analyse how the two main characters in *The Bear* reveal the clash between their pride and attraction towards each other.

(15 marks)

#### PROSE

(Answer *one* question only)

8. Examine the Nightingale's actions to highlight the contrast between selflessness and human indifference in 'The Nightingale and the Rose'.
9. Examine the speaker's choices and dedication which reveal courage and professionalism in critical situations in 'The Lahore Attack'.
10. Examine Nicholas's cleverness and curiosity and their effects on the story of 'The Lumber Room'.
11. Explore how the narrator's disconnected observations reveal her initial state of shock in the extract from *Wave*.

(15 marks)

#### FICTION

(Answer *one* question only)

12. Do you agree that Edward and Tom's experiences show the social inequalities of their world? Discuss with reference to *The Prince and the Pauper*.
13. Jagan's relationship with other characters indicates his inability to adapt to his society. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to Jagan and two other characters in *The Vendor of Sweets*.
14. Do you agree that the interaction between Tony and the narrator shows the value of empathy? Discuss with reference to *Bringing Tony Home*.

(15 marks)