

Grade : 11

G.C.E. (O/L) Practice Test - 2019

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Appreciation of English Literary Texts

Time : 3 Hours

**Instructions :**

- Answer five questions.
- Answer question number 01, and four others selecting one from each Section – Poetry, Drama, Prose and Fiction.

**PART I**

• **Section A** - Answer all the questions.

1. i. *"These men were born to drill and die*

*The unexplained glory flies above them"*

- a) From where are these lines taken? Who is the writer?
- b) Who are referred to as 'these men'?
- c) Write the meaning of the line *"The unexplained glory flies above them"* in your own words. **(5 marks)**

ii. *"The fleeces of our flocks are cover'd with  
The sacred dew: protect them with thine influence!"*

- a) Name the work that carries these lines. Who is the writer?
- b) Whom are these lines addressed to?
- c) What is 'the sacred dew' referred to here? **(5 marks)**

iii. *"....it was a belief that would keep her on self-imposed sentry -duty for the greater part of  
the afternoon."*

- a) From which text is this line taken? Who is the writer?
- b) What is the situation mentioned in the extract?
- c) What does the underlined phrase tell you about the character of the person in the extract? **(5 marks)**

iv. *"This was an experience that I could not relate to. I had great sympathy and compassion for them..."*

- a) From which text is this extract taken? Who is the speaker?
- b) Who is referred to as 'them' here?
- c) What does the above extract tell you about the speaker? **(5 marks)**

v. *"Weave the cloth! make the stuff! Right away! They say they can sell it at three or four times  
more than before..."*

- a. Name the work that carries these lines. Who is the writer?
- b. Who is the speaker of these words? Whom are they spoken to?
- c. What is the reaction of the other person to this utterance? Why? **(5 marks)**

vi. *"What pleasure it will give me to put a bullet into your thick head! Devil take you!"*

- a) From where are these lines taken? Who wrote them?
- b) Who speaks these words? To whom are they spoken to?
- c) What does this line tell you about the speaker's character? **(5 marks)**

● **Section B - Answer either (a), (b), or (c)**

a) Read the following extract and answer the questions given.

*Oh, what can we do now? Poor boy! In the lock up! He won't feel comfortable: he has always slept on a spring mattress, since he was seven. How can I get him out?' Tears blurred his sight, until the cousin looked distorted, corrugated and dwarfish. The cousin watched him calmly and said 'Come, come. Don't let that vagrant see the tears in your eyes'. The cousin was extremely practical and knew exactly what should be done."*

- I. What is the situation described here? (2marks)
- II. What attitude does the first speaker has towards the 'poor boy'? (2marks)
- III. Write the meaning of the following words. (2marks)
  - a. distorted
  - b. vagrant
- IV. What does the passage tell you about the two characters mentioned here? (4marks)

b) Read the following extract and answer the questions given below it.

*"What would the boy naturally do? Where would he naturally go? Well – argued Miles – he would naturally go for his former haunts, for that is the instinct of unsound minds, when homeless and forsaken, as well as of sound ones. Whereabouts were his former haunts? His rags, taken together with the low villain who seemed to know him and who even claimed to be his father, indicated that his home was in one or another of the poorest and meanest districts of London."*

- I. What is the situation described in the passage? (2 marks)
- II. What is the attitude of Miles towards 'the boy' mentioned here? (2 marks)
- III. Write the meaning of the following in your own words. (2 marks)
  - a. haunts
  - b. forsaken
- IV. What is the role played by Miles' character in the novel? (4 marks)

c) Read the following extract and answer the questions given below it.

*"Father stood up in response and before proceeding into the little hall for his dinner passed Final judgment and closed the case, he said that Tony was a most ungrateful animal to run away like that after I went through all that trouble to bring him home and it's best that I forget the wretched dog."*

- I. What is the situation given in the passage? Where does it take place? (2 marks)
- II. What was the father's 'Final judgment' about the dog? (2 marks)
- III. Write the meanings of the following: (2 marks)
  - a. ungrateful - .....
  - b. wretched - .....
- IV. How would you describe feelings of 'I' in this situation.? (4 marks)

## PART II

● Each question carries 15 marks.

**Poetry (Answer only one question).**

- (2) Does the depiction of the eagle in the poem *The Eagle* by Alfred Lord Tennyson, draw a parallel to men with such qualities? Justify your answer.
- (3) How skillful is the writer Wislawa Szymborska in depicting two attitudes to violence in the poem *The Terrorist, He's watching*. Illustrate your answer with examples from the poem.
- (4) The poem *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou uses symbolism and visual imagery effectively to bring out the social injustices. Do you agree? Discuss your answer referring to the poem.
- (5) 'The poem *Fear* by Gabriela Mistral is not a mere presentation of a mother's love.' Evaluate this statement with close reference to the poem.
- (6) The poem *The Camel's Hump* by Rudyard Kipling appeals to both the children and the adults alike. Do you agree?

**Prose (Answer only one question).**

- (7) How does the climax of the story, *The Lumber Room* by Saki help to bring out its theme? Illustrate your answer with close reference to the text.
- (8) What features of Sangakkara's speech make it so powerful? Comment with reference to the extract from *Colin Cowdrey Lecture – The Lahore Attack*.
- (9) What thematic concerns does the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose* by Oscar Wilde deal with? Elucidate your answer with examples from the text.
- (10) 'The narrative *Wave* by Sonali Deraniyagala has been described as a story of grief and of love.' Comment on this statement with close reference to the text.

**Drama (Answer only one question).**

- (11) The play, *The Twilight of a Crane* by Junji Kinoshita employs an array of techniques to heighten the interest of the audience. Do you agree?
- (12) Which of the two main characters in the play *The Bear* by Anton Chekov appeals to you most? Justify your answer referring to the text.

**Fiction (Answer only one question).**

- (13) What advantages do Tom Canty and Edward Tudor see in each other's life before they trade places? How and why do their initial ideas change after exchanging roles? Illustrate your answer with examples from the text.
- (14) 'The novel, *Bringing Tony Home* by Tissa Abesekara focuses on displacement and alienation of humans due to lost relationships.' Discuss this statement with examples from the novel.
- (15) '*The Vendor of Sweets* by Narayan depicts the conflict between the old and the young.' Support your answer with examples from the text.

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