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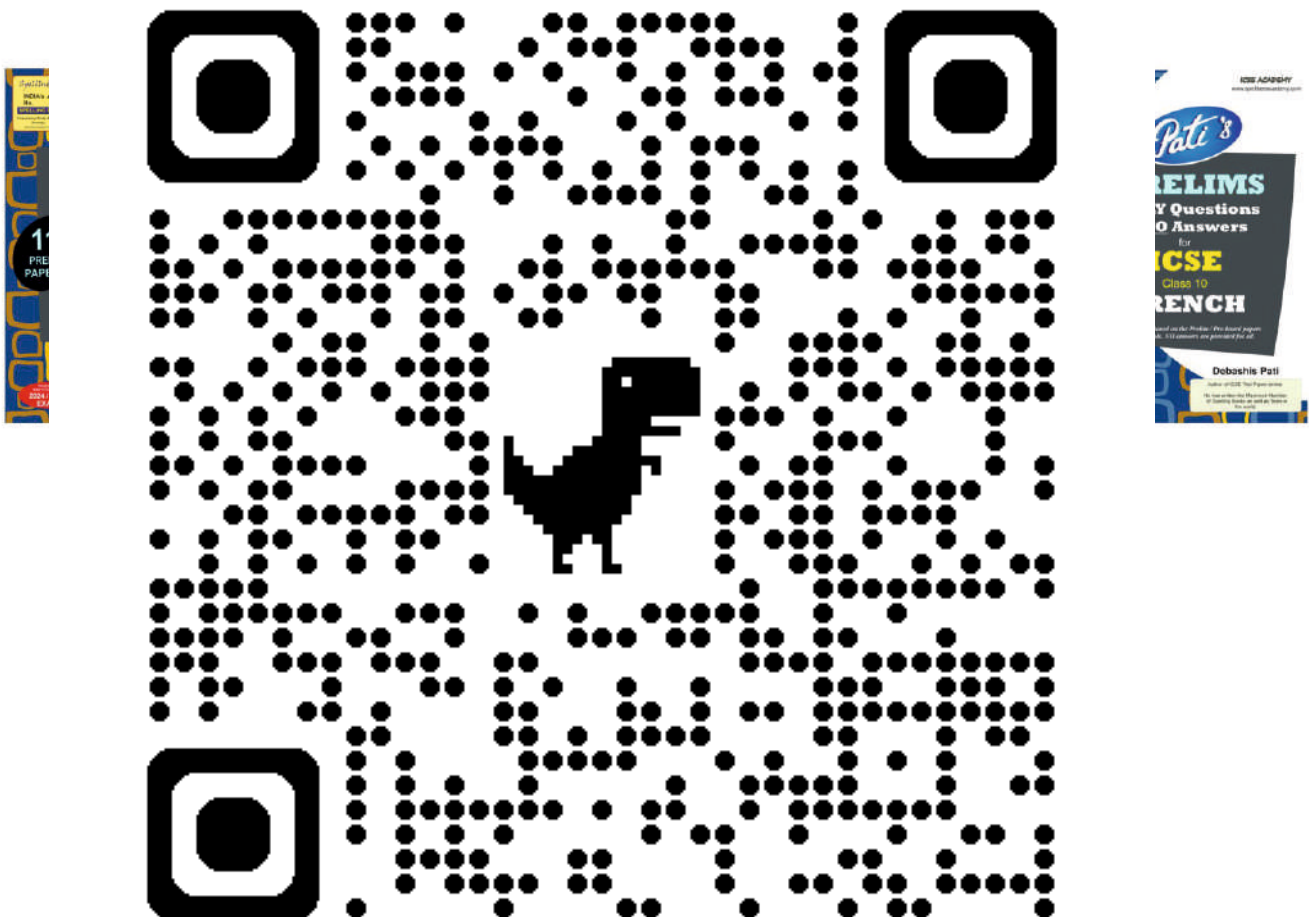
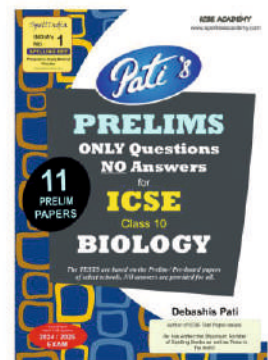
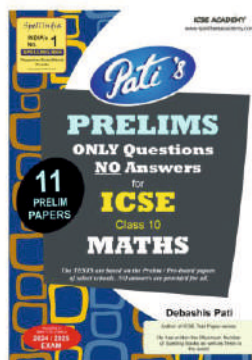
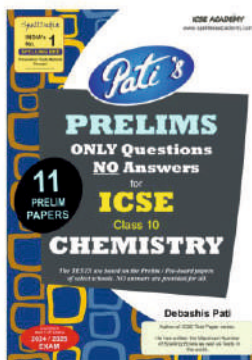
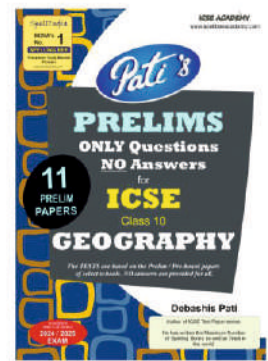
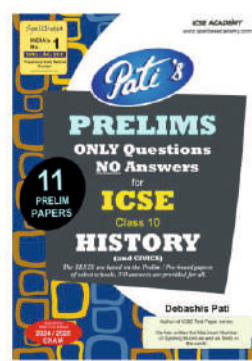
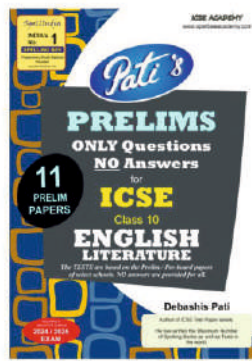
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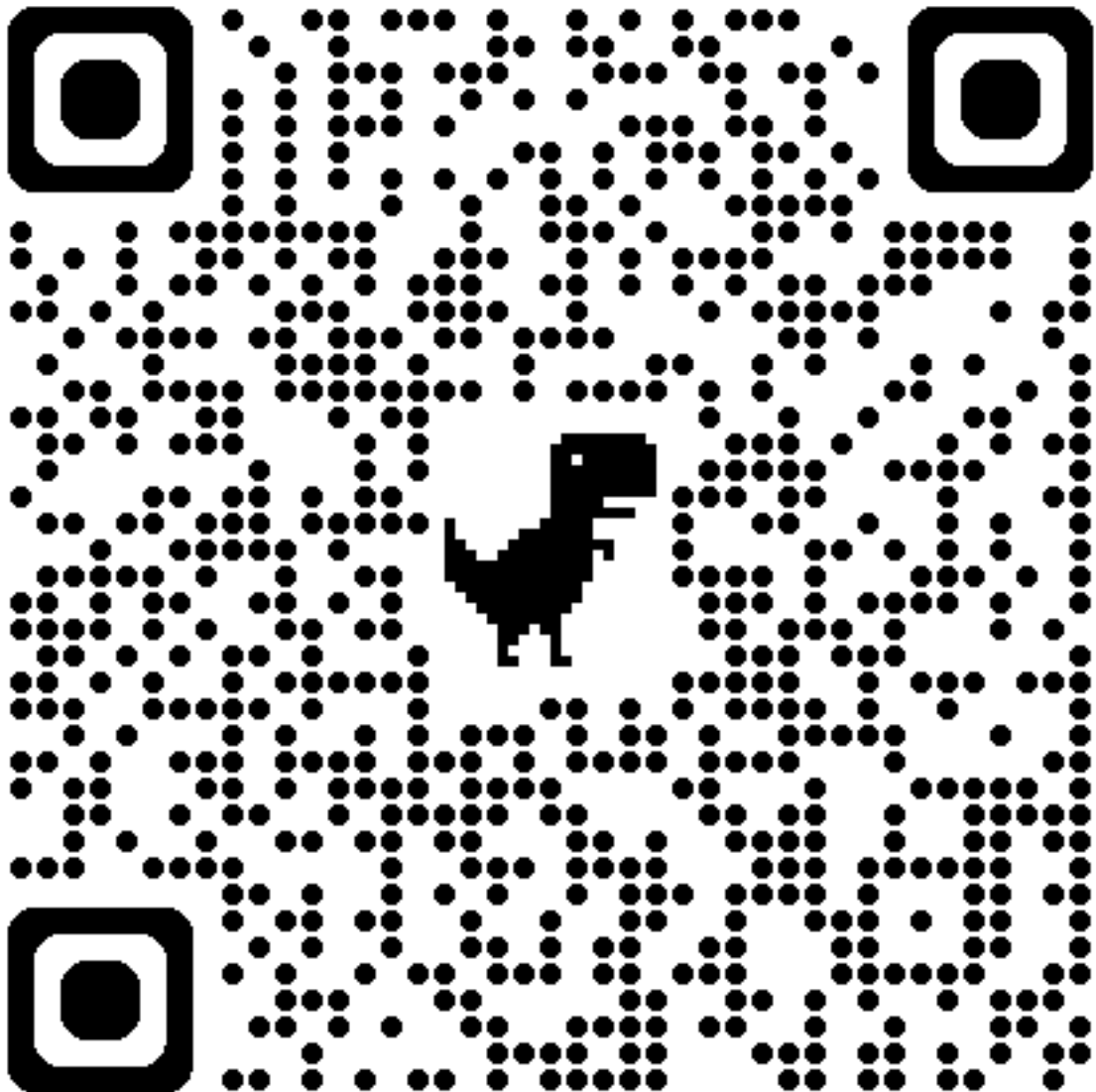




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Specimen Papers

- 2025

ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
(ENGLISH PAPER – 2)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*The paper has **four** Sections.*

Section A is compulsory – All questions in Section A must be answered.

You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

Instruction for the Supervising Examiner

Kindly read aloud the Instructions given above to all the candidates present in the Examination Hall.

SECTION A

(Attempt *all* questions from this Section.)

Question 1

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

[16]

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

(i) Where was Caesar put to death?

- (a) On a street in Rome
- (b) On the battleground of Philippi
- (c) At the foot of Pompey's statue
- (d) In Brutus' orchard

[Recall]

(ii) Who asks permission to speak at Caesar's funeral?

- (a) Brutus
- (b) Antony
- (c) Cassius
- (d) Octavius

[Recall]

(iii) "Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!

Over thy wounds now do I prophesy..."

These lines tell us that Antony is _____.

- (a) enraged
- (b) sorrowful
- (c) anxious
- (d) frustrated

[Analysis]

(iv) When Antony says, 'This is a slight unmeritable man, / Meet to be sent on errands' he refers to _____.

- (a) Lepidus
- (b) Octavius
- (c) Pindarus
- (d) Lucilius

(v) What strategy does Cassius suggest that the conspirators follow?

- (a) march towards Philippi
- (b) remain where they are
- (c) raise an army of foot soldiers
- (d) set fire to the surrounding villages

[Understanding]

(vi) When Cassius says, 'My life is run his compass', he means that _____.

- (a) it is the day on which Brutus was born
- (b) his life had come full circle
- (c) his life could be measured with a compass
- (d) his life could be compared to a race

[Understanding]

(vii) Which of the given options contains the figure of speech that appears in the following line from Leigh Hunt's poem 'The Glove and the Lions': '*Ramped and roared the lions*':

- (a) 'Your eyes are like the diamond bright.'
- (b) 'Suddenly the black night showed its teeth in a flash of lightning.'
- (c) 'Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?'
- (d) 'Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun.'

[Application]

(viii) Which of the following is NOT an effect of Bhishma Lochan Sharma's powerful singing in Sukumar Ray's poem 'The Power of Music'?

- (a) The sky weeps tears
- (b) The trees shake and crash
- (c) The people retire amazed
- (d) The turtles whine and stare

[Understanding]

(ix) Which of the following words does H. W. Longfellow use to describe the movement of the phantoms in his poem, 'Haunted Houses'?

- (a) slide
- (b) glide
- (c) noiseless
- (d) invisible

[Recall]

(x) The theme of Maya Angelou's poem 'When Great Trees Fall' is _____.

- (a) the impact of the death of a loved one on those left behind
- (b) the effect of felling trees on the environment
- (c) how the death of trees affects humanity
- (d) the impact of natural calamities on a forest

[Analysis]

(xi) The poem, 'A Considerable Speck', captures _____.

- (a) the journey of a mite across a sheet of paper
- (b) The poet's determination to kill the mite
- (c) The poet's encounter with a gigantic fly
- (d) The mite's attempt to escape from the fly

[Understanding]

(xii) In Stephen Leacock's 'With the Photographer', while waiting for the photographer, the narrator spent time _____.

- (a) examining the studio
- (b) talking on his phone
- (c) writing in his diary
- (d) reading magazines

[Recall]

(xiii) In Ama Ata Aidoo's short story, 'The Girl Who Can', Nana expressed her disapproval of Adjoa's legs because _____.

- (a) they were slender
- (b) they were muscular
- (c) they were bent
- (d) they were short

[Under

(xiv) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from Alphonse Daudet's short story 'The Last Lesson' in the correct order.

1. But, when he arrived at school, Franz was dismayed to find his classmates already seated quietly and solemnly in their places ... and shocked when M. Hamel simply urged him to take his place.
2. Franz hurried to school that morning he was very late and dreaded being scolded by M. Hamel, the teacher.
3. After he had settled at his desk, he noticed something really odd: the back benches of the classroom were occupied by adults from the village!
4. He hoped to slip into the classroom unnoticed, under cover of the bustle and noise of a typical school day morning.

- (a) 1, 3, 2, 4
- (b) 2, 4, 1, 3
- (c) 3, 1, 4, 2
- (d) 4, 2, 3, 1

[Understanding]

(xv) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from William Sleator's short story, 'The Elevator'.

Statement 1: Terrified of the fat lady in the elevator, Martin ran down the dark stairs, fell and broke his leg.

Statement 2: Angry and disappointed that his son had behaved like a fool and a coward, Martin's father did not talk to him on the way to the hospital.

- (a) (1) is true and (2) is false.
- (b) (2) is true and (1) is false.
- (c) (1) is the cause for (2).
- (d) (1) and (2) are independent of each other.

(xvi) Ray Bradbury's short story 'The Pedestrian', can be best described as

- _____
- (a) utopian
 - (b) dystopian
 - (c) humorous
 - (d) a fairy tale

[Evaluative]

SECTION B

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

DRAMA

(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Caesar: *Are we all ready? What is now amiss,
That Caesar and his Senate must redress?*

Metellus: *Most high, most mighty, and most puissant Caesar,
Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat
A humble heart, ---- [He kneels]*

- (i) Where are the speakers? [3]
What does 'puissant' mean?
Explain: '*Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat a humble heart*'. [Recall & Understanding]
- (ii) At the beginning of the scene, Caesar says, '*The Ides of March are come.*' [3]
Why do you think Caesar said this? [Recall & Understanding]
What does the Soothsayer say in response? [Understanding]
- (iii) What specific duties do the conspirators allot to Trebonius and Casca? [3]
Why does Cassius become nervous when Popilius Lena speaks to him as they enter? [Recall & Understanding]
- (iv) What does Artemidorus want of Caesar?
How does Caesar respond to his plea? [Recall & Understanding]

- (v) Shortly after this exchange, Caesar is stabbed to death by the conspirators. Whom do you sympathise with — Julius Caesar or the conspirators? Give reasons for your choice. [4]
[Evaluative & Analysis]

Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Brutus: *I did send to you
For certain sums of gold, which you denied me;
For I can raise no money by vile means:
By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,
And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring
From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash
By any indirection.*

- (i) To whom are these words addressed? [3]
Why is Brutus angry with this person? [Recall & Understanding]
- (ii) How does this person feel when he hears these words? [3]
What does he say to defend himself? [Analysis & Recall]
- (iii) Why did Brutus need 'certain sums of gold'? [3]
Why was he unable to raise these sums of money? [Understanding]
- (iv) Earlier in this scene, Brutus refers to Lucius Pella. [3]
What had he been accused of? [Recall]
Who had supported him and how?
- (v) Mention any two aspects of Brutus' character that are revealed in the above extract. [4]
What do you understand about the relationship between Brutus and the person he addresses? [Analysis]

SECTION C

(Answer *one or more* questions from this Section.)

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Short Stories and Poems)

Question 4

Read the following extract from Stephen Leacock's short story, 'With the Photographer' and answer the questions that follow:

"The photographer beckoned me in. I thought he seemed quieter and graver than before. I think, too, there was a certain pride in his manner.

He unfolded the proof of a large photograph, and we both looked at it in silence.

'Is it me?' I asked.

'Yes,' he said quietly, 'it is you,' and we went on looking at it."

- (i) Where was the narrator? [3]
Why had he gone there? [Recall & Understanding]
Why do you think that there was a certain pride in the photographer's manner?
- (ii) What does the word 'proof' mean in this context? [3]
Why did the narrator ask, "Is it me?"? [Understanding]
- (iii) Which of the narrator's facial features had the photographer altered? [3]
[Recall]
- (iv) What was the only part of the narrator's face that seemed original in the photograph? [3]
[Recall]
How did the photographer plan to 'fix' this?
- (v) At the end of the story the narrator flies into a rage. [4]
What makes him angry? [Understanding & Analysis]
How would you justify the narrator's angry outburst?

Question 5

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow:

"He would stand upon the corner of an intersection and peer down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference;"

- (i) What was Leonard Mead's occupation? [3]
 What did he love to do? [Recall,
 Understanding
 & Recall]
 When is the story set? [3]
- (ii) To what does Mead compare his walk through the empty streets? [3]
 Mention TWO reasons he gives for making this comparison? [Recall &
 Understanding]
- (iii) Why had Mead decided to change his footwear from hard-heeled shoes to sneakers? [3]
 [Understanding]
- (iv) What happened quite suddenly as he was making his way home? [3]
 What was Mead's immediate reaction? [Recall]
- (v) Why was Mead taken away by the police car? [3]
 Would you call this a horror story or a piece of science fiction? [Understanding
 & Analysis]
 Give reasons for your answer. [3]

SECTION D

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Short Stories and Poems)

Question 6

Read the following extract from H.W. Longfellow's poem, 'Haunted Houses' and answer the questions that follow:

*The stranger at my fireside cannot see
 The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
 He but perceives what is; while unto me
 All that has been is visible and clear.*

- (i) What makes the poet-narrator different from the stranger at his fireside?

[Understanding]

- (ii) What, according to the poet, turns a house into a 'haunted' house? [3]
[Understanding]
- (iii) Where is one likely to meet the 'phantoms' in a haunted house? [3]
[Recall]
- (iv) What are the poet-narrator's views on owning property? [3]
[Recall & Understanding]
- (v) How do the poet's views of ghosts differ from the traditional perception of ghosts? How would you describe the **mood** that the poem evokes? Give ONE reason for your answer. [4]
[Understanding & Analysis]

Question 7

Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall' and answer the questions that follow:

*When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.*

- (i) What effect does the falling of a 'great tree' have on the creatures of the forest? [3]
[Recall & Understanding]
- (ii) How does the death of a great soul affect the lives of those left behind in the immediate aftermath of their passing? [3]
[Understanding]
- (iii) What long-term effect does the death of a 'great soul' have? [3]
[Understanding]
- (iv) What **feeling** is being expressed by the following lines / phrases? [3]
(a) small things recoil into silence
(b) kind words/ unsaid,
(c) Be and be/ better. For they existed [Analysis]
- (v) What is a 'Great tree' a metaphor for? [4]
What is the central message of Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall'?' [Application & Analysis]

ICSE 2025 SPECIMEN

DRAFT MARKING SCHEME – LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (ENGLISH PAPER 2)

Question 1		[16]
(i)	(c) At the foot of Pompey's statue	
(ii)	(b) Antony	
(iii)	(a) enraged	
(iv)	(a) Lepidus	
(v)	(b) remain where they are	
(vi)	(b) his life had come full circle	
(vii)	(c) 'Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?'	
(viii)	(d) The turtles whine and stare	
(ix)	(b) glide	
(x)	(a) the impact of the death of a loved one on those left behind	
(xi)	(a) the journey of a mite across a sheet of paper	
(xii)	(d) reading magazines	
(xiii)	(a) they were slender	
(xiv)	(b) 2, 4, 1, 3	
(xv)	(c) (1) is the cause for (2).	
(xvi)	(b) dystopian	
Question 2		
(i)	The Capitol/ Senate/ Rome puissant- powerful Metellus Cimber begs the mighty Caesar most humbly to listen to his plea.	[3]
(ii)	Caesar had earlier been warned by the Soothsayer to beware the ides of March. + So, Caesar reminds the Soothsayer that it had already arrived and yet nothing had happened to him. The Soothsayer tells Caesar that though it had come, it had not yet gone.	[3]
(iii)	Trebonius: to take Antony out of the way/ ensure that he would not be near Caesar when the conspirators attacked Caesar. Casca: to be the first to attack Caesar. Popilius Lena speaks to Cassius as they enter the Senate House and addresses him directly, wishing him success in his enterprise that day. This makes Cassius nervous as he thinks that their plot has been discovered.	[3]

(iv)	<p>Artemidorus pleads that Caesar read the scroll that he had just given to him because it concerns him very closely.</p> <p>Caesar responds by saying that whatever concerned him personally would be dealt with last.</p>	[3]
(v)	<p>Personal response: Accept either Julius Caesar or Conspirators</p> <p>Accept any three plausible reasons.</p>	[4]
Question 3		
(i)	<p>Cassius</p> <p>Brutus is angry because he had requested Cassius to send him money, but Cassius had refused to do so.</p>	[3]
(ii)	<p>Hurt / sad / grieved / betrayed.</p> <p>Cassius' defence: he had not refused money— the person who had given Brutus the message had made a mistake / miscommunicated the information sent.</p>	[3]
(iii)	<p>to pay his legions.</p> <p>He could not raise money by vile means— could not force poor unwilling peasants to part with their money by dishonest methods– he would rather turn his heart into gold and his drops of blood into silver coins/ drachmas than do such a thing.</p>	[3]
(iv)	<p>Brutus had accused Lucius Pella of taking bribes from the Sardians — had humiliated and disgraced him.</p> <p>Cassius had written to Brutus pleading on behalf of Lucius Pella/ to excuse him his offences because he knew the man well.</p>	[3]
(v)	<p>Brutus – self-righteous/ highly moral and idealistic / takes the high moral ground + unconscious hypocrisy /double standards — Willing to ask for and use money raised through malpractice by Cassius but will not do it himself</p> <p>The relationship is breaking down/ strained/ differences in personality are clearly evident/ they quarrel / they are incompatible.</p>	[4]
Question 4		
(i)	<p>Photography studio</p> <p>To get his picture taken</p> <p>The photographer took pride in his work -- did not like the narrator's looks yet made sure that his photograph had turned out well</p>	[3]

(ii)	<p>A trial/ sample impression of a print before final printing</p> <p>The narrator could not recognise himself in the photograph because everything had been altered/ It did not look like him/ bore no resemblance to the narrator's face.</p>	[3]
(iii)	Eyes – eyebrows– forehead – hairline –mouth	[3]
(iv)	<p>his ears</p> <p>Through a process called the Sulphide – he could remove the ears entirely and replace them.</p>	[3]
(v)	<p>The narrator was furious because the photograph had no original facial features/ did not look like his face.</p> <p>Justified — his patience had been pushed to the extreme — felt offended/ humiliated at the needless intervention — attempt at body shaming — hurt his sense of self-worth/ self-image.</p>	[4]
Question 5		
(i)	<p>Writer</p> <p>Loved to go out on long walks – in the evening – in the silence – walk on the concrete sidewalk / on grassy patches.</p> <p>A.D. 2053</p>	[3]
(ii)	<p>Compares his walks through the empty streets — to the shadow of a hawk in mid country.</p> <p>The roads were as deserted — as the centre of a plain in the Arizona desert — with no house in a thousand miles.</p> <p>He was as alone in the city — as a hawk in mid country with no habitation or people.</p>	[3]
(iii)	His hard-heeled shoes attracted unwanted attention + he wanted to move quietly and unobserved + dogs on the streets/ dogs barked + people in houses/ lights came on.	[3]
(iv)	<p>A lone car turned the corner + He was caught in its headlights.</p> <p>He stood motionless / spellbound / fascinated + moved towards it.</p>	[3]
(v)	<p>For walking without a purpose</p> <p>Personal Response question</p> <p>Accept EITHER Horror story/ Science fiction.</p> <p>Accept any TWO plausible reasons</p>	[4]

Question 6		
(i)	He can see + hear what the stranger cannot see or hear + stranger perceives 'what is' (the present) while the narrator perceives all that 'has been' (the past)	[3]
(ii)	Houses where people have lived + died + are revisited by the spirits of those who have passed on a haunted house.	[3]
(iii)	In the doorways + stairs + passageway + halls	[3]
(iv)	The living cannot claim ownership of houses/ lands that they occupy + previous owners and occupants from long ago, now dead, + reach out from the graves to stake a claim.	[3]
(iv)	Traditional – frightening/ vengeful/ malevolent Poet's – comfortable /secure/ benign Mood – comfort + security Accept any ONE plausible reason.	[4]
Question 7		
(i)	lions hunker down + elephants lumber + small things recoil into silence	[3]
(ii)	It is difficult to breathe because the air becomes rarefied and sterile/ one is choked with emotion + we see with hurtful clarity + remember unfulfilled promises with regret.	[3]
(iii)	Disoriented + struggle to manage on our own/ cope with the loss/ emotional void + maddened/ unhinged/ 'reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves'.	[3]
(iv)	(a) small things recoil into silence – shock/ numbness/ stunned (b) kind words/ unsaid — remorse/ regret (c) Be and be/ better. For they existed — optimism / hope / joyful acceptance	[3]
(v)	Tree = a great soul The loss of a loved one is traumatic yet inevitable. The memory and influence of the great soul lingers and will continue to shape and affect our lives positively. It brings hope and healing to be better versions of ourselves.	[4]



ICSE ACADEMY

Specimen Papers

- 2024

ICSE 2024 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
(ENGLISH PAPER – 2)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*The paper has **four** Sections.*

***Section A** is compulsory – **All** questions in **Section A** must be answered.*

*You must attempt **one** question from each of the Sections **B, C** and **D** and **one** other question from any
Section of your choice.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

*(Attempt **all** questions from this Section.)*

Question 1

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

[16]

- (i) What does Shylock demand from Antonio?
- (a) A pound of flesh
 - (b) Six thousand ducats
 - (c) An apology
 - (d) compassion
- (ii) What does Portia ask for when Bassanio steps up to take the casket test?
- (a) A banquet
 - (b) Music to be played
 - (c) A garland
 - (d) Applause

- (iii) What does Portia mean when she tells Bassanio, '... I am lock'd in one of them:'?
- (a) That she was locked in a cell and unable to escape.
 - (b) That she was a prisoner in her father's house.
 - (c) That her portrait lay hidden in one of the caskets.
 - (d) That she was bound firmly by her promise to her father.
- (iv) Portia: There are some shrewd contents in yon same paper...
What does the 'paper' in this extract refer to?
- (a) Portia's letter to Bellario
 - (b) Bellario's letter to the Duke
 - (c) Bassanio's letter to Antonio
 - (d) Antonio's letter to Bassanio
- (v) Why does a quarrel break out between Nerissa and Gratiano in the final Act of 'The Merchant of Venice'?
- (a) Gratiano admits that he had given away the ring which Nerissa had given to him.
 - (b) Nerissa admits that she had accompanied Portia to Venice disguised as a lawyer's clerk.
 - (c) Gratiano is annoyed with Nerissa for giving away his ring to a stranger in Venice.
 - (d) Nerissa is angry with Gratiano for leaving for Venice on the very day they were married.
- (vi) How does Lorenzo recognize Portia even before he sees her when the two young women return from Venice?
- (a) by the clothes she wears
 - (b) by the sound of her voice
 - (c) by the perfume she wears
 - (d) by her touch
- (vii) Which of the following statements is NOT true of Sibia?
- (a) She had long golden hair
 - (b) She had to work hard from her early years
 - (c) She was twelve years old
 - (d) She had no money to buy glass beads at the bazaar

(viii) What had the little match girl's grandmother told her about falling stars?

- (a) When a star falls, a soul goes up to God.
- (b) If she made a wish when she saw a star fall, her wish would come true.
- (c) A falling star meant that it would be a cold winter.
- (d) When a star falls, an angel dies.

(ix) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order.

1. Joe sighed in relief - he realised that this meant his wife no longer resented Maggie's presence.
2. After supper, Joe went to the bedroom where Maggie lay waiting.
3. Joe looked in through the window and saw Maggie in conversation with his wife Jane.
4. He entered the house noisily and Jane hurried into the kitchen to make him his supper.

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (b) 2, 4, 1, 3
- (c) 1, 3, 2, 4
- (d) 3, 1, 4, 2

(x) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from All Summer in a Day.

1. One day, while in the school shower room, Margot had clutched her hands to her ears and covered her head, screaming and refusing to let the water touch her.
2. Margot realised that she was different from the others and that the children knew this difference and stayed away.

- (a) 1 is the cause for 2
- (b) 1 is an example of 2
- (c) 1 is independent of 2
- (d) 1 is a contradiction of 2

(xi) At the running broad jump trials Jesse Owens exclaims, "Did I come 3000 miles for this?" Which of the following words best describes Jesse's mood?

- (a) envious
- (b) frustrated
- (c) confused
- (d) thwarted

(xii) The fickle-mindedness of his followers made the central character in Browning's poem *The Patriot* feel _____ .

1. ambitious
2. disillusioned
3. bitter
4. optimistic

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 1

(xiii) What is the caged bird in Maya Angelou's poem, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' blinded by?

- (a) Her narrow cage
- (b) Her rage
- (c) The sun's orange rays
- (d) Her fears of the unknown

(xiv) What was Abou Ben Adhem doing when the angel appeared in his room one night?

- (a) writing in a book of gold
- (b) sleeping soundly
- (c) walking in the moonlight
- (d) asking questions

(xv) What special human quality does the poem 'Nine Gold Medals' celebrate?

- (a) rivalry
- (b) jealousy
- (c) empathy
- (d) selfishness

(xvi) Which of the following lines contains the same literary device as the one in Wordsworth, "Ten thousand saw I at a glance,"

- (a) A hundred years should go to praise
Thine eyes and on thy forehead gaze;
- (b) A fair breeze blow, the white foam flew
The furrow followed free,
- (c) Frail as a dragon-fly's wing
- (d) Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me —

SECTION B

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Bassanio: *A gentle scroll. --- Fair lady, by your leave; [Kissing her]
I come by note, to give and to receive.
Like one of two contending in a prize,
That thinks he has done well in people's eyes
Hearing applause and universal shout
Giddy in spirit, still gazing in a doubt
Whether those peals of praise be his or no;*

- (i) Where did Bassanio find the 'gentle scroll'?
What 'prize' had Bassanio just won? [3]
- (ii) Explain why Bassanio said he felt 'Giddy in spirit, still gazing in a doubt'. [3]
- (iii) Soon thereafter, Portia gives Bassanio a ring as a token of her love. What does this gift symbolise? [3]
- (iv) What assurance does Bassanio give her while accepting this gift? [3]
- (v) What does Portia urge Bassanio to do when she learns that his friend Antonio is in trouble? What aspect of her character do her words reveal? [4]

Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Shylock: *Shall I not have barely my principal?*
Portia: *Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,
To be so cut taken at thy peril, Jew.*

- (i) What is the 'forfeiture' Portia mentions?
How will it prove perilous for Shylock? [3]
- (ii) What does Portia go on to tell Shylock about the laws of Venice, as applicable for a foreigner? [3]
- (iii) How does Gratiano mock Shylock at this point? [3]

What 'mercy' does the Duke now offer to Shylock?

[3]

(v) How does Shylock react to the Duke's decision on his punishment?

What are your feelings for Shylock at this point in the play? Give reasons.

[4]

SECTION C

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'All Summer in a Day' given below and answer the questions that follow:

The girl standing in the open, held out her hand

"Oh look, look," she said, trembling.

They came slowly to look at her opened palm.

In the center of it, cupped and huge, was a single raindrop. She began to cry, looking at it. They glanced quietly at the sun.

"Oh. Oh"

- (i) How old were 'they'? Where were they living? What had they been doing until the girl called their attention to the raindrop? [3]
- (ii) Mention any three ways in which their lives on this planet differed from life on earth. [3]
- (iii) Why does the girl begin to cry when she looks at the raindrop? [3]
- (iv) Describe the dramatic change in the weather immediately after the raindrop fell. [3]
- (v) What feelings do 'they' experience at the end of the story? What had they done earlier that made them feel this way? [4]

Question 5

Read the following extract by Jesse Owens from 'My Greatest Olympic Prize', and answer the questions that follow:

An angry athlete is an athlete who will make mistakes, as any coach will tell you. I was no exception. On the first of my three qualifying jumps, I leaped from several inches beyond the take-off board for a foul.

- (i) When and where is this story set?
What reason does the narrator, Jesse Owens, give for the heightened nationalistic feelings at this time?

- (ii) In which event had Owens been confident of winning a gold medal? Why? [3]
- (iii) What had made Owens angry enough to make mistakes? [3]
- (iv) Name Owens' rival who approached him at this point? [3]
- (v) How did the two athletes perform in the finals?
What does Jesse Owens consider his 'Greatest Olympic Prize'? Why? [4]

SECTION D

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

POETRY

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6

Read the following extract from the poem 'Abou Ben Adhem' by Leigh Hunt and answer the questions that follow:

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase)

Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,

- (i) What did Abou Ben Adhem see when woke from a deep sleep one night? [3]
- (ii) What did Abou Ben Adhem ask the angel? What was the angel's response? [3]
- (iii) What did Abou request the angel to do when he learnt that his name did not appear among the names of those who loved the Lord? What does this reveal to us of Abou Ben Adhem's character? [3]
- (iv) When and how did the angel appear to Abou Ben Adhem again? What did the angel show Abou this time? [3]
- (v) What does the poet mean by 'May his tribe increase!'? Why do you think he says this? What is the central message of the poem? [4]

Question 7

Read the extract from David Roth's poem, 'Nine Gold Medals' given below and answer the questions that follow:

And the banner above and nine smiling faces

Said more than these words ever will

Said more than these words ever will.

- (i) What was 'special' about the athletes who were participating in this Sports Meet?
What special quality of theirs does the poem celebrate? [3]
- (ii) Which race was the highlight of the day? What was the signal that the athletes waited for? How many athletes participated in this race? [3]
- (iii) How does the poet describe the state of mind of the athletes as they lined up for the race? Who won the race? [3]
- (iv) If you had to give this poem an alternate title, what would you call it? Give reasons for your answer. [3]
- (v) Give a brief account of what happened after the youngest athlete fell to the ground. Why do you think the author use the word 'strange' to describe the behaviour of the athletes? [4]

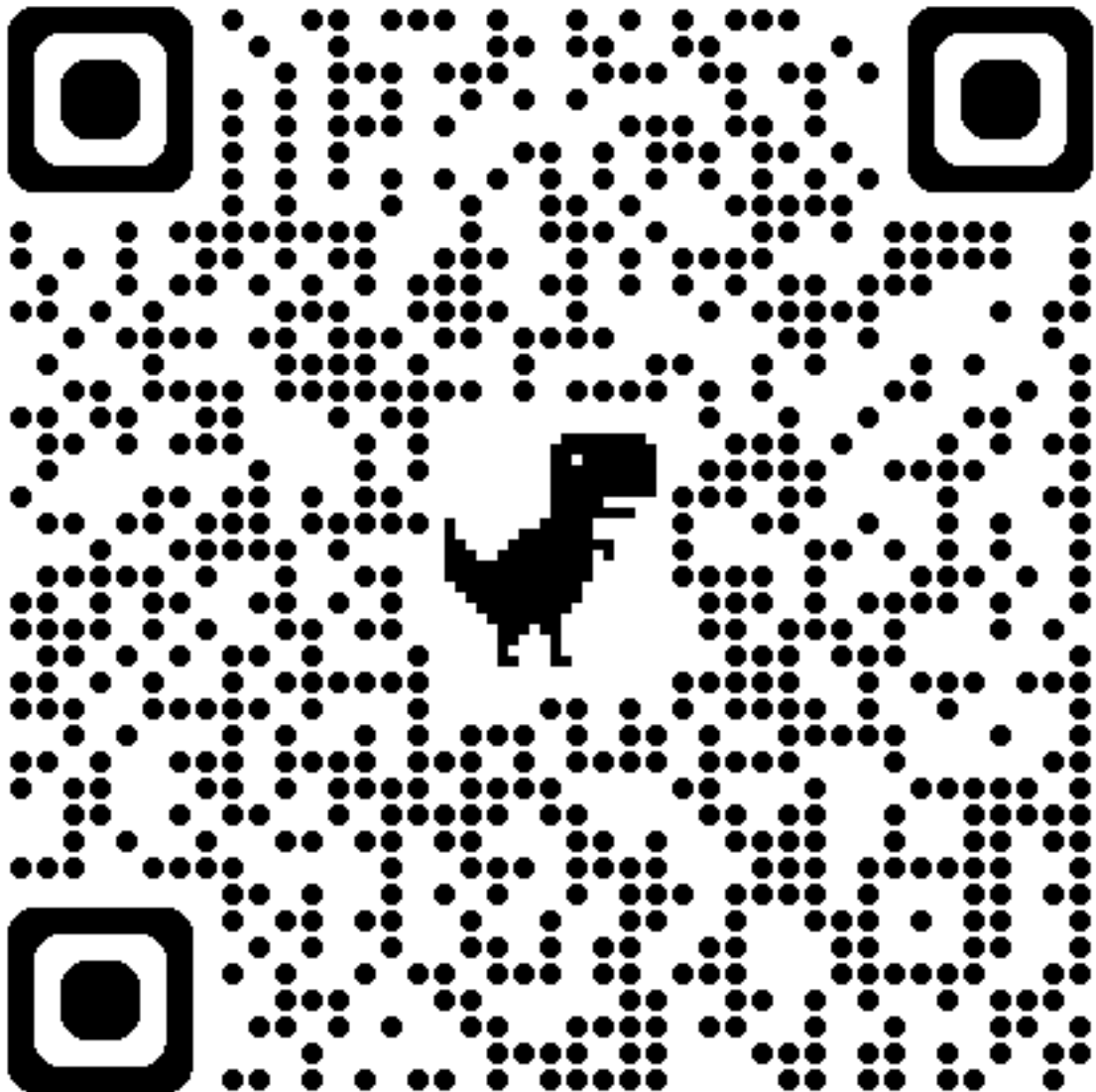




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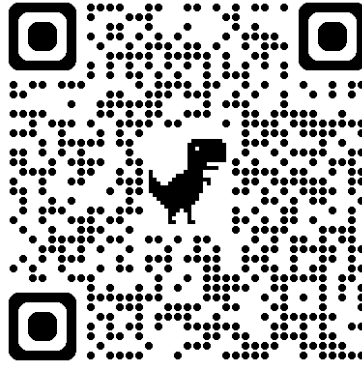


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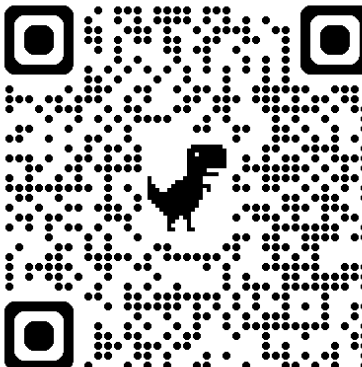
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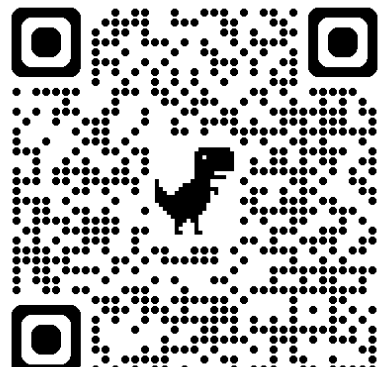
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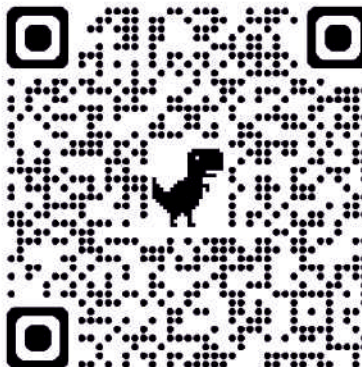
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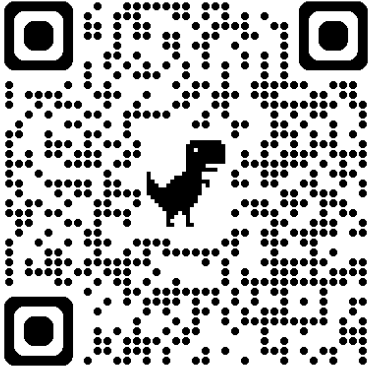
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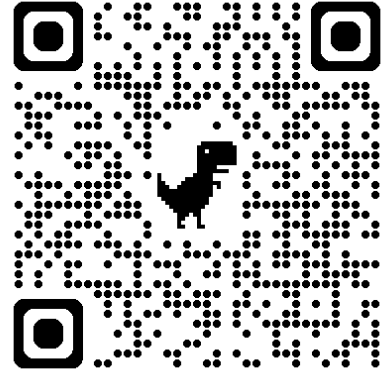
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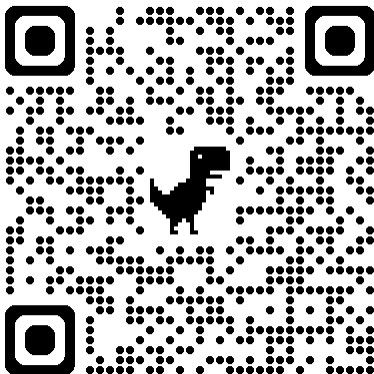
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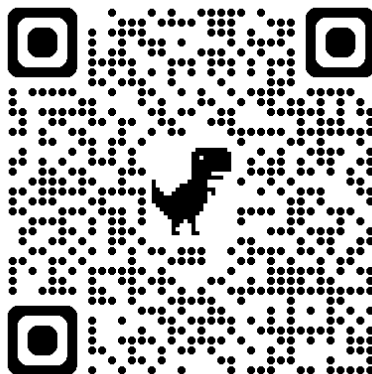
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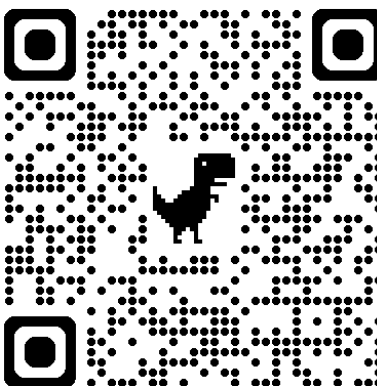
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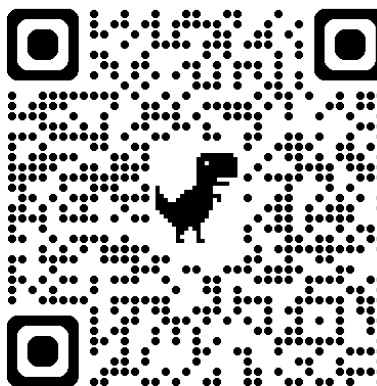
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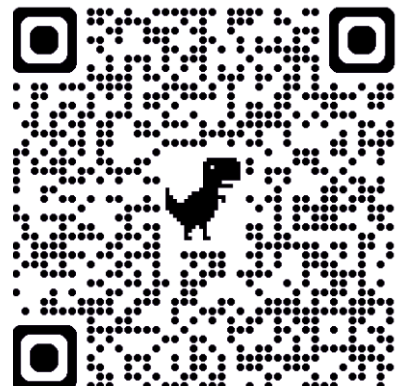
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