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Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

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கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர (சாதாரண தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2017 டிசெம்பர்  
**General Certificate of Education (Ord. Level) Examination, December 2017**

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இலக்கிய நயம் ஆங்கிலம்  
**Appreciation of English Literary Texts**

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மூன்று மணித்தியாலம்  
**Three hours**

**Note:** Answer five questions only.

\* Answer question 1 and four others, selecting one from each section - POETRY, DRAMA, PROSE and FICTION.

### Part I

#### 1. Section A – Answer all questions.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions given below them:

- (i) 'And even less do I want them,  
one day to make her queen.'

- Name the work that carries these lines. Name the writer.
- Who is the speaker here? What is the speaker's relationship with the person referred to as 'her' in the second line?
- What can you understand about the speaker from these lines?

(05 marks)

- (ii) 'So if a "ton" was to be read,  
He read it "not", the dunder-head!'

- Name the work from which these lines are taken. Who wrote them?
- Who is referred to as 'He' in the second line? Describe his unusual behaviour.
- What does 'dunder-head' mean? What kind of effect is created by the word?

(05 marks)

- (iii) 'Pain. That was all I could feel. Where am I? Something was crushing my chest. I am trapped under the jeep, I thought, I am being flattened by it. I tried to push it away. I wanted to wriggle out.'

- Name the work from which these lines are taken. Name the writer.
- Who is referred to as 'I'? To which occasion does this speaker refer?
- How would you describe the feelings of the speaker here?

(05 marks)

- (iv) "'You said there couldn't possibly be a frog in my bread-and-milk; there was a frog in my bread-and-milk," he repeated, with the insistence of a skilled tactician who does not intend to shift from favourable ground.'

- In which work do these words appear? Who is the author?
- Who are referred to as 'you' and 'he' in this extract?
- What is the tone of the person referred to as 'he'? Name the literacy device/technique used to describe 'he'.

(05 marks)

[see page two]

(v) 'Stop, you foolish bastard! We're in the big business of money-making; what the hell will the pity and sympathy do!'

- Name the work from which this extract is taken. Who is the writer?
- Who is the speaker of these words? To whom are they spoken?
- What theme in the play does this extract relate to?

(05 marks)

(vi) 'What a way to reason! A man is in desperate need of his money, and she won't pay it because, you see, she is not disposed to attend to money matters!.... That's real silly feminine logic.'

- From which work is this extract taken? Name the writer.
- Who speaks these words? To whom are they spoken?
- What does the speaker mean by the expression "That's real silly feminine logic"?

(05 marks)

**Section B** – Answer questions in **either** (a), (b) **or** (c).

(a) Read the following extract and answer the questions given below it:

**Either**

'And now and then his mind reverted to his treatment by those rude Christ's Hospital boys, and he said, "When I am king, they shall not have bread and shelter only, but also teachings out of books; for a full belly is little worth where the mind is starved, and the heart. I will keep this diligently in my remembrance, that this day's lesson be not lost upon me, and my people suffer thereby; for learning softeneth the heart and breedeth gentleness and charity."'

(softeneth=soften; breedeth=breed)

- What is the situation presented in this extract? Who is referred to as 'I'?
- What does the speaker intend to do in the future?
- Write the meanings of the following in your own words.
  - reverted
  - a full belly is little worth
- Which aspects of the character 'I' are reflected in the passage?

(02 marks)

(02 marks)

(02 marks)

(04 marks)

**Or**

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

'He felt hurt at the recollection as if a needle had probed a wound. "I have probably outlived my purpose in this house. If I live for ten or fifteen years more, it will have to be on a different plane. At sixty, one is reborn and enters a new *janma*." That was the reason why people celebrated their sixtieth birthdays. He remembered his father and mother, his uncle and aunt, and a score of other couples celebrating a man's sixtieth year like a wedding, with pipe, drum, and feasting. People loved to celebrate one thing or another all the time. He had had his fill of these festivals, and had nothing to complain of.'

- Whose thoughts are expressed in this passage? When does this happen?
- What prompted these thoughts in the speaker?
- Write the meanings of the following in your own words:
  - outlived
  - on a different plane
- What state of mind is reflected by the speaker's expression?

(02 marks)

(02 marks)

(02 marks)

(04 marks)

[see page three]



Or

(c) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it:

'I sprang up and twisted and turned and bent trying to pull the books from behind my back, and the grey woman and her son with the square face were staring at me like I was the craziest thing they had encountered in their lives. The books were partially wet with sweat but still had the smell of fresh biscuits, and I was grinning from ear to ear and wanting to shout and scream with joy and not caring a hoot what the grey woman and her square faced son thought, because I felt right on top of the world with not a pain anywhere in my body and the nausea had vanished and I wanted to run all the way home...'

- (i) Where does this incident take place? Who is the speaker here? (02 marks)  
 (ii) What are the books mentioned here? How does the speaker feel about these books? (02 marks)  
 (iii) Write in your own words the meanings of the following:  
     (a) encountered  
     (b) grinning from ear to ear (02 marks)  
 (iv) Why does the speaker feel 'right on top of the world'? (04 marks)

**Part II****POETRY**(Answer *one* question only)

2. 'William Blake creates a positive impression of nature in **To the Evening Star**'. Examine this statement with reference to the poem.  
 3. 'In **The Terrorist, He's Watching**, Wislawa Szymborska dramatically presents the tension of a terrorist'. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.  
 4. 'Gabriel Okara shows how socio-cultural changes affect people's behaviour'. Comment on this statement with reference to **Once Upon a Time**.  
 5. 'Through the voice of a goblet, Harindranath Chattopadhyaya explores how natural life is destroyed and shaped by external forces'. Discuss with reference to **The Earthen Goblet**.  
 6. '"Cameelious hump" is an illness of laziness'. Explore how this idea is portrayed through humour in Rudyard Kipling's poem **The Camel's Hump**. (15 marks)

**DRAMA**(Answer *one* question only)

7. Critically comment on the relationship between Yohyo and Tsu in **Twilight of a Crane**.  
 8. 'The difference between expressed attitudes and actual behaviour is presented through Popova and Smirnov in **The Bear**'. Discuss referring closely to the events of the play. (15 marks)

**PROSE**(Answer *one* question only)

9. Compare and contrast the characters of Nicholas and the aunt in the short story **The Lumber Room**.  
 10. Discuss how the characteristics of the Nightingale, the student and the girl are explored in **The Nightingale and the Rose**.

[see page four]

11. 'The Lahore Attack is a mere description of the speaker's tension experienced and courage shown'. Is this an adequate assessment of the extract set for your study? Give your views.
12. Critically examine the aspects of human behaviour presented in the extract of **Wave** set for your study. Refer closely to the extract. (15 marks)

### FICTION

(Answer *one* question only)

13. 'The Prince and the Pauper is a story about the gap between the rich and the poor'. Examine this statement with reference to the novel.
14. 'The Vendor of Sweets represents a conflict between two cultures'. Discuss with reference to the novel.
15. 'Bringing Tony Home is a record of fond memories of the narrator's childhood'. Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer by referring to the text. (15 marks)

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