

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

Directions: 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 'Bluffing' by Gail Helgason.

Set I

Question 1a.

[1x5]

Directions: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

- (i) Liam can best be described as a
- A travel agent.
 - B tourist guide.
 - C tourist agent.
 - D tour operator.

- (ii) Gabriella goes for the hike along with Liam because she
- A is in love with Liam.
 - B likes going for hikes.
 - C will be able to talk about their marriage.
 - D will be able to talk about the house lease.
- (iii) Which one of the following best shows that Liam is not a trustworthy character?
- A He runs away from the grizzly.
 - B He refuses to have a house on lease.
 - C He talks of his winter hike with Clive.
 - D He spends most of his money on expensive out door gears.
- (iv) The best reason why Gabriella avoids looking at Liam's face in the hospital is because
- A she feels guilty.
 - B Liam is angry at her.
 - C she knows Liam's face is disfigured.
 - D the nurse does not allow her to do so.
- (v) Which of the following does Liam want to celebrate when he says, "to celebrate", to Gabriella?
- A Their marriage ceremony.
 - B Liam's hike with Gabriella.
 - C Liam's hike with the German tourists.
 - C Liam's going for a hike down South with Clive.

Question 1b.

[20]

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

- (i) Why does Gabriella choose to bluff Liam in the hospital? (5)
- (ii) The nurse says, "Are you sure you feel up to it?" Explain what she means by this. (5)

- (iii) Liam ran away in order to save Gabriella from the bear. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (5)
- (iv) How committed are Liam and Gabriella to each other? Elaborate. (5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

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

- (i) 'Gabriella said the problem was that he (Liam) was trying to focus on a single object. Instead, he should try to soften his eyes and take the entire horizon.' Write any **five** conclusions you can draw on Liam's character in the light of this observation. (10)
- (ii) The story contains many conflicts. Show any **three** conflicts with a brief account of each. (15)

Section B: Essay

Directions: 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.

Why I Want a Wife.

I belong to that classification of people known as wives. I am A Wife. And, not altogether incidentally, I am a mother.

Not too long ago a male friend of mine appeared on the scene fresh from a recent divorce. He had one child, who is of course, with his ex-wife. He is looking for another wife. As I thought about him while I was ironing one evening, it suddenly occurred to me that I, too, would like to have a wife. Why do I want a wife?

I would like to get back to school so that I can become economically independent, support myself, and, if need be, support those dependent upon me. I want a wife who will work and send me to school. And while I am going to school I want a wife to take care of my children. I want a wife to keep track of the children's doctor and dentist appointments and to keep track of mine,

too. I want a wife to make sure my children eat properly and are kept clean. I want a wife who will wash the children's clothes and keep them mended. I want a wife who is a good attendant on my children, who arranges for their schooling, makes sure that they have an adequate social life with their peers, takes them to the park, the zoo, etc. I want a wife who takes care of the children when they are sick, a wife who arranges to be around when the children need special care, because, of course, I cannot miss classes at the school. My wife must arrange to loose time at work and not lose the job. It may mean a small cut in my wife's income from time to time, but I guess I can tolerate that. Needless to say, my wife will arrange and pay for the care of the children while my wife is working.

I want a wife who will take care of *my* physical needs. I want a wife who will keep my house clean. A wife who will pick after my children, a wife who will pick after me. I want a wife who will keep my clothes clean, ironed, mended, replaced when need be, and who will see to it that my personal things are kept in their proper place so that I can find what I need the minute I need it. I want a wife who cooks the meals, a wife who is a *good* cook. I want a wife who will plan the menus, do the necessary grocery shopping, prepare the meals, serve them pleasantly, and then do the cleaning up while I do my studying. I want a wife who will care for me when I am sick and sympathize with my pain and loss of time from school. I want a wife to go along when our family take a vacation so that someone can continue to care for me and my children when I need a rest and change of scene.

I want a wife who will not bother me with rambling complaints about a wife's duties. But I want a wife who will listen to me when I feel the need to explain a rather difficult point I have come across in my course of studies. And I want a wife who will type my papers for me when I have written them.

I want a wife who will take care of the details of my social life. When my wife and I are invited out by my friends, I want a wife who will take care of the babysitting arrangements. When I meet people at school that I like and want to entertain, I want a wife who will have the house clean, will prepare a special meal, serve it to me and my friends, and not interrupt when I talk about things that interest me and my friends. I want a wife who will have arranged that the children are fed and ready for bed before my guests arrive so that the children do not bother us. I want a wife who takes care of the needs of my guests so that they feel comfortable, who makes sure that they have an ashtray, that they are passed the hors d'oeuvres, that they are offered a second helping of the food, that their wine glasses are replenished when necessary, that their coffee is served to them as they like it. And I want a wife who knows that sometimes I need a night out by myself.

If, by chance, I find another person more suitable as a wife than the wife I already have, I want the liberty to replace my present wife with another one. Naturally, I will expect a fresh, new life; my wife will take the children and be solely responsible for them so that I am left free.

When I am through with school and have a job, I want my wife to quit working and remain at home so that my wife can more fully and completely take care of a wife's duties.

My God, who *wouldn't* want a wife?

Judy Syfers, Essays, Thought and Style, 1987

Set I

Question 1a.

[1x]

Directions: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

- (i) The speaker in the essay is a
- A disgruntled husband.
 - B divorced husband.
 - C disgruntled wife.
 - D divorced wife.
- (ii) The idea of getting a wife came to mind when the speaker
- A came across a divorcee.
 - B thought about the troubles.
 - C was taking a walk one evening.
 - D was ironing clothes one evening.
- (iii) The irony in the essay is that the speaker wants to
- A have a wife.
 - B have a husband.
 - C have a caretaker.
 - D marry a divorcee.
- (iv) The speaker in the essay talks of liberty because the speaker
- A has gone through a divorce.
 - B does not want to be confined.
 - B has a bitter experience with the spouse.
 - D is angry at people's expectations from a wife.

- (v) In which of the following categories does the essay best fit?
- A satirical
 - B humorous
 - C persuasive
 - D expository

Question 1b.**[20]**

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

- (i) How does the author convey feelings without alienating the audience? (5)
- (ii) Characterise the persona Syfers adopts in the essay. Explain any **two** traits. (5)
- (iii) Based on the idea of a wife as suggested by the essay, construct a dialogue between a husband and wife. The couple should speak at least **five** times. (5)
- (iv) In **one** paragraph, write down a similar account entitled, 'Why I Want a Husband.' (5)

Set II**Question 2.****[25]**

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

- (i) To what extent do you think this essay presents a true assessment of the relationship between a wife and her husband? Give **four** reasons to support your answer. (10)
- (ii) Summarize any **six** roles and the responsibilities of a wife as outlined in the essay. (15)

Section C: Poetry

Directions: 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.

All the World's a Stage

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At First, the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.
Then the whining school boy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays with part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,
Turning again towards childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

William Shakespeare

Set I

Question 1a.

[1x5]

Directions: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

- (i) 'All the world's a stage' means
- A everybody's life in the world is transitory.
 - B there is a life within all lives in the world.
 - C all people in the world act out their lives.
 - D all actors perform on the world stage.
- (ii) According to the poem, man has
- A six stages.
 - B seven stages.
 - C eight stages.
 - D nine stages.
- (iii) Which two stages are similar in man's life?
- A one and seven
 - B two and five
 - C three and six
 - D five and eight
- (iv) This poem is
- A a lyric.
 - B a ballad.
 - C an elegy.
 - D a monologue.

- (v) The tone of the poem is
- A sad.
 - B cynical.
 - C satirical.
 - D rebellious.

Question 1b.

[20]

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

- (i) Which stage of human life do you consider the best? Why? (5)
- (ii) What does the poet mean by 'mere oblivion'? Elaborate with reference to the last stage of human life. (5)
- (iii) Do you agree with the poet's portrayal of the stages of human life? Why? (5)
- (iv) What is the theme of the poem? Explain. (5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

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

- (i) Which genre does this poem belong to? Support your answer with reference to the features of this genre. (10)
- (ii) Bring out your understanding of the stages of human life in contrast to the portrayal of the stages in the poem. Suggest a title. (15)

Section D: Drama

Directions: *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]**

Directions: *Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.*

- (i) Leon is the first husband of
- A Ardele.
 - B the maid.
 - C the woman.
 - D Madame Bessarabo.
- (ii) The maid is crying all the time because she
- A had been attacked.
 - B is trying to gain attention.
 - C does not have any money.
 - D hates the author for treating her badly.
- (iii) Each character wearing a false nose is
- A tragic.
 - B comical.
 - C deceptive.
 - D suspicious.
- (iv) If you were a dramatist, your primary function would be to
- A teach the public.
 - B impress the public.
 - C entertain the public.
 - D create sensations for the public.

- (v) The absurdity of Gontran's situation is that
- A he is weeping like a child.
 - B he wants a gun from the author.
 - C he is in love with Lea whom Ardele calls a stick.
 - D Lucienne has been deceiving him ever since he left her.

Question 1b.

[20]

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

- (i) If you were the Author, how would you deal with La Surette? (5)
- (ii) If you were the Author, what ending would you suggest for your friend Gustave's story? (5)
- (iii) Suggest **two** possibilities of change in the Author's life if Ardele had really left the Author. (5)
- (iv) List any **five** events at the climax of the play with the collapse of the ceiling. (5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

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

- (i) Classify 'Episode in the Life of an Author' as belonging to the Theatre of the Absurd, explaining the characteristics of the genre. Point out **four** examples of absurd situations or dialogues in the drama. (10)
- (ii) Name the characters that appeal to you the most and the least. Justify your choices. (15)

