



G.C.E. (ORDINARY LEVEL) EXAMINATION

Enrichment Programme

APPRECIATION OF ENGLISH LITERARY TEXTS



Poetry

To the Nile - John Keats

- A Petrarchan sonnet in fourteen lines that looks at nature in a more realistic manner with a positive attitude where a river is perceived as life giving, benevolent and fruitful while not discarding the legends and mythical beliefs surrounding it.



Essay Q

- “ Keats in , ‘To the Nile’ presents two attitudes to nature that never fails to recognize its beneficial aspects.”

Discuss



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- The more realistic attitude to nature as **fruitful and life giving** since the Nile is like any other river as seen by a more enlightened westerner.
 - A more glorifying legend-obased attitude to nature that venerates nature as the a life giver and naurisher of great civilizations as perceived by the African tribes that regard the Nile as chief of the pyramids and nurse of swat nations.

- 
- “ O’ may dark fancies err! They surely do;
 - ‘Tis ignorance that makes a barren waste”

 - i). From where are these lines taken from?
 - li). What is the ‘ dark fancy’ referred here?
 - lii). What insight makes the speaker correct himself

- 
- i). To the Nile by Keats
 - ii). The dark fancy mentioned here is the negative idea that the revered Nile is a barren infertile deceptive thing that does not deserve such glorification.
 - iii). The insight that nature basically is good , benevolent and fertile and lifegiving helps to change his pessimistic attitude towards this river

A Bird Came Down the Walk Emily Dickinson

- A poem written in first person narrative that reveals an ordinary encounter with a bird which brings not only the self reliance , self sufficiency and independence of nature but also its graceful beauty using striking metaphorical language.



Essay Q

- “ Man’s impact nature is merely momentary and never able to tarnish its glory in the long run .” examine referring to the poem By Emily Dickinson.
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- 
- Man disturbs and interferes with nature to spoil its serenity as we see in the poem how the bird gets agitated and flies away in fear although it was in control of itself letting the beetle pass and hunting only when it needs.
 - Despite flying away, soon it regains its composure and shows gentle movement as rowing or that of butterflies.

- 
- They looked like frightened beads I thought,
 - He stirred his velvet head.

 - i). From where are these lines taken?
 - li). What does 'they ' refer to ?
 - lii). Identify the Metaphor in the lines?
 - What purpose does it serve?

- 
- i). From the poem, 'A Bird Came Down the Walk ' by Emily Dickinson
 - ii). 'They' refer to the eyes of the bird that carry a feeling of fear
 - iii). The eyes of the bird are compared in a
 - metaphor to beads to show how they are big widened and alert being cautious and aware that it is being hunted as well.

The Eagle - Alfred Lord Tennyson.

- A short and dramatic poem reflecting the majesty, power and strength of nature through an astonishing visual image of an eagle that draws the analogy of a monarch with all his invincibility, destructive power and sense of mystery thus celebrating the glorious power of nature.



Essay Q

- “Tennyson in ‘The Eagle’ makes use of striking imagery to show the power of nature.”
 - Discuss.
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- 
- Show how its grip is firm on the crag and that it will not be easy to oust him
 - Shows how it is close to the sun which is a symbol of power and energy to suggest that the bird too is a powerful being
 - How he stands firm in its position and watches as if it were a monarch surveying his kingdom suggests his power
 - How every living or non living thing can not equal him and even the so powerful sea crawls and wrinkled against its awesome power conveys the above idea
 - The final image of how the eagle falls in a sure and easeful motion towards its prey with a deadlier power like the thunderbolt suggests his superior awe-inspiring power

- 
- “ Close to the sun in lonely lands,
 - Ring’d with the azure world he stands.”

 - i). From where are these lines taken from?
 - ii). Who is ‘ he ’ mentioned here?
 - What is the technique used?
 - iii). How does the poet brings out the sense of alienation and detachment that ‘he’ maintains worthy of a monarch?

- 
- i). From 'The Eagle' by Lord Tennyson
 - ii). 'he' is the eagle . Personification

 - iii). the poet brings out the sense of alienation and detachment that 'he' maintains worthy of a monarch by showing his that it is only the blue sky that surrounds him and that no other bird is able to equal his high flying life and the height he maintains since the bird stands in lonely lands of high altitude.

To the Evening Star - William Blake

- A sonnet appreciating the beauty of the Evening star, this poem glorifies the benevolence, fertility as well as protective nature of Venus as a goddess.

We see how the poet makes an earnest prayer and a plea to Venus to protect the vulnerable man from the influence of evil using the power of love as a protective shield.



Essay Q

“ Man is weak and vulnerable against the power of evil that lurks in the shadows of the world. ” Discuss.



- 
- Blake compares man to sheep in a biblical allusion and a metaphor to show its weakness in a world infested by evil and shows how as the night approaches the lion begins to glare and the wolf rages that symbolizes the ever present evil in nature/ world plunging the sheep in to a vulnerable position .
 - By showing that it is only the supernatural powers of a god/ goddess , in this case Venus, is only capable of saving man against the looming evil forces and making a plea to Venus to protect him, the poet shows the weak vulnerability of man.

- 
- “ thy radiant crown
 - Put on, and smile upon our evening bed.”

 - i). From where are these lines taken?
 - li). Who is ‘ thy ’ mentioned here?
 - Who is ‘ thy ’ compared to ?
 - lii). Who is ‘ our ’ mentioned here?
 - What quality of ‘ thy ’ emerges through?

- i). From the poem, 'To the Evening Star' by Blake

- li). 'thy' mentioned here is the evening star
 - it is compared to a queen wearing a
 - crown.

- lii). 'our' refers to man in general
 - it bring out the fertility of Venus as she makes man and woman fall in love and give birth to new life.

War is Kind - Stephen Crane

Based on three tragic deaths and the narrator's efforts at consoling bereaved family members who have lost a loved one at war, this poem brings the true horror of war that is beneath the sheen, glory and grandeur related to being a soldier and of the Army with a touch of grim irony.



Essay Q

- 'the outward sheen of war and the associated heroism is a mere deceptive façade.' Do you agree?
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- 
- Yes. the outward sheen of war is a mere outward deceptive façade that makes little souls thirst for fight and make them drill and die in battle. The booming drums of the guns, the swift blazing flag and the emblem of the eagle with a crest of red and gold and even the bright splendid shroud, are the appearances of grandeur that hides the horror of war that brings painful death and loss in field where thousand corpses lie as young men die throwing wild hands in the air and raging at the breast as they die in trenches under poisonous gas attacks.



“ the unexplained glory flies above them
Great is the battle god , great is his kingdom.”

i). From where are these lines taken ?

ii). Who does ` they ' refer to ?



III). Why is the `glory' flying above them?

- 
- i). War is kind- Stephen Crane
 - ii). They refers t the young soldier died in the battlefield thinking that such a death glorious.
 - iii). The so called glory of death at battle is flying above them in an inaccessible manner and the dead soldiers seems to see no such glory in death at battled

The Terrorist, He is watching – Wislawa Symborska

A dramatic narration with the image of a clock ticking towards a fatal moment in the background, this poem brings to our attention how unsafe the modern world is, as it has become a prey to the claws of terrorism and also shows how life is unpredictable and seems to be governed by a mysterious supernatural hand that could be destiny or fate working in its own way.



Essay Q

“Terror has no humanity and preys upon the innocent”

Discuss referring to the poem by Wislawa Szymborska



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- Terror has no humanity as the poem shows how a terrorist sets a bomb in a crowded bar where there is only average innocent persons and feels no remorse as the terrorist waits in the safe distance watching the entire episode as if it were happening in the movies and looks forward to see the dead bodies coming out with a callous heartless indifference to untimely death of innocent persons.

- 
- “ wait a second, looks like he’s looking for something in his pockets...”

 - i). From where are these lines taken from?
 - ii). Whose thoughts are these?
 - What is significant about these words ?
 - iii). How does the poet show that the speaker is not a totally heartless person?

- 
- i). From the poem, 'The Terrorist, He is watching'
 - ii). These are the narrator's
 - they look like thoughts belonging to the terrorist as well.
 - iii). He shows concern and care for the man
 - that is about to die.

Farewell to the Barn and Stack and Tree. - A.E. Houseman

- A moving separation and the bidding of farewell set in a rural agricultural backdrop, this is a poem in the ballad form dramatically narrating a tragic story of brother turning against brother over a girl that leaves the surviving sibling in guilt, shame and a heart full of repentance.



Essay Q

“Farewell to the Barn and Stack and Tree brings to our attention a heart full of bereavement and regret that resulted from ungovernable passion.” Discuss



- 
- The poem carries a parting farewell between two friends and the words are full of sadness , regret and repentance where the speaker has just killed his own brother over the love of a girl in a heart full of jealousy.
 - How he wishes his friend strength that would bring him pride and a love to keep the hands clean unlike his shows this heart full of repentance.
 - He reflects how his mother will have lost two sons by night and the dinner will be cold for a long time also shows his heart full of sadness.



“ We’ll sweat no more on the scythe and rake
My bloody hand and I. ”

i). From where are these lines taken?

ii). Who does ‘we’ refer to ? What technique is used?

iii). Why would they will not ‘sweat’ any more?



- 
- i). From the ballad 'Farewell to the Barn and Stack and Tree'. by A.E. Houseman
 - li). 'we' refers to the poet and his hands
 - personification
 -
 - lii). He has decided to move away from the village and the associated agricultural lifestyle, may be in his grief and guilt he may be thinking of suicide.

Breakfast - Jacques Prevert

- A silent and tense morning where two persons are found to be at the height of a prejudiced misunderstanding that leaves their relationship dysfunctional, this poem tells how lack of understanding can ruin human relations leading to bitterness and the thoughts of hurting each other.
- Presented in the woman's point of view, the poem shows how she is torn emotionally as her yearnings and weaknesses are misunderstood leaving her in a morning full of misery



Essay Q

- ' Breakfast is a dramatic narration of tensions running high based on a narrow prejudice and misunderstanding ' discuss.
- 

- 
- The poem developing from a woman's point of view narrated how she passively watches how a man makes tea alone for himself, smokes a cigarette and then dashes out in the rain which finally leaves her broken down and reduced to tears.
 - The action is presented minutely that makes us imagine the scene full of silence and tension.
 - The woman sits waiting expecting for him to make the first move to break the ice but her silence and passive helplessness is misunderstood as arrogance by the man who makes tea in such a way to hurt her than to bring about a reconciliation and then smokes in such a way to give her the feeling that he can get by without her and then leaves in the rain to convey the idea that he can not stand her company which gradually leads to making her weep



“ He made rings
With the smoke
He put the ashes
In the ash- tray.”

- i) Where are the lines taken from?
- ii) Who is ' he ' mentioned here?
- iii) what makes him act in this manner ?

- 
- i). From, ' Breakfast ' by Jacques Prevert
 - li). The husband or the fiancé of the woman
 - who is beholding his actions silently.
 - lii). He is acting in such a way obviously to hurt the woman who is watching him. It could be to show her that he can get by without her in a show of confidence.

Once Upon a Time - Gabriel Okara

- Set in the Post Colonial Nigeria, the poem presents a moving situation of a man loathing his own acquired identity that he finds disgustingly deceitful and deceptive and yearning to return to innocence through the help of his son enjoying the angelic bliss of childhood
- Presented in the form of a monologue , the poem carries an ironic twist of a father entreating his son to teach him sincerity and truthfulness and a life of simplicity the Nigerians enjoyed before their fateful contact with the British Colonizer.



Essay Q

“ Gabriel Okara in his poem brings the feelings of a man disgusted with his identity ”
Examine.



- 
- Okara in his monologue to his small innocent child speaks in such a moving and appealing way to teach him to return to the innocence and the good old days of the yore when he too was laughing with heart genuinely
 - He shows how he too has become like other and become adept at wearing faces.
 - He shows how he is disgusted with his own image in the mirror that reflects a snake with bare fangs
 - He tells how he wants to 'unlearn' all the muting things and 'relearn' innocence from his child

- 
- “ there will be no thrice-
 - for then I find doors shut on me.”

 - i). From where these lines are taken?
 - li). What is referred to as ‘ thrice’ ?
 - lii). What quality of that society is reflected by the shut doors ?

- 
- i). From the poem, ' Once upon a Time '
 - li), thrice refers to the poet's attempts to have sincere and close relations with others by visiting to see them
 - lii). The doors shut reflects how the people in this society looks at others in suspicion and does not wish to maintain close relations by like to have others at arm's length.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou

- Set in the 1950's in the USA , the poem brings to our attention how the Black Afro American languish amidst discrimination with no equality and justice in sight in the so called land of the Free.
- Using the symbolic representations of the privileged position of the whites and the denied and disadvantaged position of the Blacks through the different fates of two birds, the poem acts as an eye opener to the masses.



Essay Q

- “ Maya Angelou sees how hurting and agonizing it is to live with no freedom and rights.” Discuss referring to the poem ,‘ I know why the caged bird sings’
- 

- 
- Developing a contrast between a free bird claiming the air as his and a bird in a narrow cage with clipped wings and tied feet, the poet shows the agony of a life sans freedom.
 - The caged bird is stalking down the cage trying to see through the bars of rage as it is so angry at its deprivation and singing in no melodious tone but in an angry fearful trill of freedom it has never felt but instinctly knows.
 - It is standing on a grave of dreams of enjoying freedom, justice and equality and has nightmares traumatized by oppression.



“The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through sighing trees “

- i). Where are these lines taken from?
 - ii). What kind of a life is suggested here?
 - iii). What words suggest such a lifestyle?
- 

- 
- i). From the poem , ' I know why the Caged Bird Sings'
 - li). A life of comfort and indulgence
 - lii). 'Breeze' and 'soft' suggest a life of no inconvenience as experienced by the free bird suggesting the white American s in the U.S.A.

Richard Cory - Edwin Arlington Robinson

- Carrying a shockingly tragic and unexpected end, this is one poem that proves that wealth can never buy happiness and life has many layers beneath the apparent. Set in the times of economic depression in the early 20th century in the US, the poem shows how family, friends and companionship are a great human need that money can hardly compensate.



Essay Q

“Edwin Arlington presents two classes of the society going through worst possible times without the knowledge of the suffering of the other.” Discuss





Richard Cory is not much conscious about the economic hardships of the working class that is fed on a meager meal and go without meat and hoping for better times, he sees them as living in a life of companionship and togetherness.



The workers are jealous and dazed by the wealth and the polite mannerisms of Cory and gets so excited by his greetings as he goes downtown but never fails to see his desperate attempts to reach out for companionship as he lives a miserable life of loneliness and alienation



“ And Richard Cory one calm summer night,
■ Went home and put a bullet through his
head. ”

- I). Where are these lines taken from?
 - II). How does the poet create shock and surprise in the reader?
 - III). What is so ironic about the ‘calm summer night’
- 

- 
- i). From the poem 'Richard Cory'
 - ii). The poet creates show and surprise by maintaining a casual detached tone and building a contrast where we are made to see a suicide taking place in a calm summer night.
 - iii). The words are ironic as in his desolation the calm summer night may not be inviting gentle sleep but nightmares that makes him weary of life.

Big Match - 1983

- Focusing on one of the darkest moments of the history of Sri Lanka; the July Riots and consequent pogrom, this dramatic narrative shows the devastating price the country had to pay for a moment of failure to rein one's passions and letting one's demons out.
- Presented in a bitter sarcastic tone it is a most realistic portrayal of how the Tamils suffered during the riots and how it brought about an irreparable damage to the ethnic relations between the two communities.



Essay Q

- “ Big Match 1983 reflects an unbiased reflection of a situation that brought immense harm to the country. “ Discuss
- 

- 
- It is unbiased as it tells how the poet and moderate people of his caliber were helpless against this mob violence unlike earlier times, tells of how the innocents that finally suffered how the criminal elements have taken over the violence from extreme elements and tries to trace how it all started in petty politics of language.
 - The riots brought about immense harm, as it damaged ethnic harmony and relations and weakened it as never before and sullied the reputation of the country and plunged it in to an economic crisis and also gave a boost to terrorism.



“ It’s a strange life we `re leading here just now

- Not a dull moment, No one can complain”

- i). From where are these lines taken?

- li). What is so `strange ` about the life at this

- point led by the speaker?

- lii). How does the speaker reveal his

- bitterness at the situation?





i). From the poem , ' Big Match 1983'

ii). The speaker live a life full of uncertainty not knowing when the mobs would reach their house and burn it down in a fire of hate and malice.



iii). The narrator reveals his bitterness by being sarcastic in his tone speaking in such positive terms about the mob violence in full swing

The Earthen Goblet – Harindranath Chattopadhyaya

- Developed as a sincere confessional answer to a question asked, the poem presents a personified Vase reflecting its anguish at losing its identity at the forceful hand of the potter who turns it in to an attractive goblet but robbing it of its joy in life and turning it in to an alienated and rootless alien that has lost its satisfying relations.



Essay Q

- 'Chaththopadhyaya in the ' Earthern Goblet' presents the agony of losing one's self and intimate relations in a moving manner.'
 - Discuss
- 

- 
- He shows how it has become a death like experience for the goblet to lose his earlier free and natural identity of being a lump of clay as he was forced and cast in to this new shape by the burning hands of the potter amidst a desire to break away.
 - He laments how he has lost relations with the flower flaming through his breast and left in a isolation that is like death without that fragrant friendship rooted deep in his bosom

- 
- “ I felt a vast feeling of sorrow
 - To be cast into this present form.”

 - I). From where are these lines taken from?
 - li). Who is ‘ I ’ mentioned here?
 - What is the tone of the speaker?
 - lii). How does the poet convey that the
 - speaker’ fate is an enforced one?

- 
- i). From the Earthen Goblet

 - li). The earthen goblet
 - the tone is sad and nostalgic

 - lii). It is 'cast' in to the present form



Father and Son - Cat Stevens

- With the misleading appearance of a dialogue between a father and his son , the poem developing as two monologues, shows how love is not merely enough to blossom a good father- son relationship and needs more of the ability to communicate and listen to the other part.
- 



Essay Q

- Cat Stevens presents a perennial struggle taking place shedding light on both the positive and negative aspects of the parties in conflict in his poem, 'Father and Son'
 - Discuss.
- 

- 
- The perennial struggle mentioned here is the father son conflict that results from the generation gap between them
 - The father is never listening and wants the son to play safe following the proven traditional beaten path although however well meaning and sympathetic he is.
 - The son on the other hand is rebellious , ambitious and adventurous despite the fact that he care nothing about the tradition and the conventional life and the fatherly protective sentiments.



“ If they were right, I would agree, but it’s them
they know, not me”

i). Where are these lines taken from?

ii). Who is ‘ they’ mentioned here?

iii). What contrast is built here?

What is the purpose?



- 
- I). From Father and Son
 - II). They mentioned here are the adults in general that tries to force him to do as they like.
 - III). He tells that the adults do not know about himself as he knows what he wants.
 - He wants to show the adults are wrong in their judgments and he needs to decide his life by his own decisions.

Fear -- Gabriela Mistral

- A moving poem in three stanzas which reflects the fears and anxieties of a mother who believes that the society would rob her of her own daughter as it would put all those ambitious ideas in to her mind to make her move away from the humble mother.



Essay Q

- Gabriela Mistral in her poem 'Fear' presents
 - The wishes of a humble rural mother lacking ambitions shared by the society.
 - Discuss
- 

- 
- Although the society expects the little girl to be a migrant swallow, a princess with golden slippers and a queen with a crown, the mother expects none of these things and wants her child to be by her side for always so that she can comb the hair of her little girl and care for her and find delight in seeing her in playing in the fields and sleeping by her in their straw bed.
 - It is her fear of losing the child due to the society's influence that is marked and presented through different metaphors in the poem.



In her tiny golden slippers
How could she play on the meadow?

- 
- i). From where are these lines taken from?
 - ii). What does golden slippers symbolize?
 - iii). What suggests the speaker's yearning for 'her' to be part of a modest and humble life?

- 
- i). From 'Fear by Gabriela Mistral'
 - li). A life of luxury in a palace
 - lii). The reference to see her child playing in the meadows and thinking that the golden slippers would be a barrier for that reveals her modest humble yearning with no big ambitions

The Clown's wife - Johnson Agard

- Burdened by the economic woes of working class wife, the poem presents to us a clown in distress and how his dear wife takes a bold but futile effort to cheer him up from his misery using the little clownish tricks that he loathes most in a misunderstanding that turns quite ironic.



Essay Q

“Johnso Agard in, ‘The Clown’s Wife’ presents two struggles that miserably fail but still appreciated with no scorn.” Discuss.



- 
- The poem two different struggles that take place but to no success. The man struggles to earn a living as a underpaid working class jester/ clown but still the earnings only make him feel miserable and the woman struggles to cheer him up using even the clownish tricks but to no avail
 - She tries to cheer him up appreciating his efforts for the sake of the family and the man claims what he would do without the clown of his wife in a compliment suggesting how he appreciates her concern and love.



I tell jokes, I do me latest card trick,
I even have a borrow of his nose.

- 
- i). From where are these lines taken?
 - ii). How does the poet show her efforts are in earnest?
 - iii). What is so ironic about these efforts?

- 
- I). FROM , 'The Clown's Wife'
 - II). The poet shows that the wife's efforts are in earnest using the repetition of 'I' that suggests the effort she takes in to it
 - III). These clownish efforts are ironic as they not only fail to cheer him up but might offend him as clowning is the last thing he wants to see at home. Further it is also ironic as a clown is cheered up by his wife playing the part of a clown.

The Camel's Hump – Rudyard Kipling

- A poem of advice and caution that is based on a middle Eastern Folk lore, it is one that creates humour through the sound devices that the poet employs while awakening the reader to the importance of productive physical labour in order to avoid the unpleasantities of losing health



Essay Q

Rudyard Kipling makes use of a Arabic folk tale in order to give a mild advice with a touch of humor in it. Discuss



- 
- The poet uses a folk tale about how the camel got a hump as a punishment for being lazy so as to teach the importance of productive physical labour.
 - However he uses sound devices and a coined word to create humor. Alliteration , onomatopoeia as well as dragged vowel sounds evoke humor.



“ The cure for this ill is not to sit still
Or frowst with a book by the fire. ”

i). From where are these lines taken from?

ii). What is the 'ill' mentioned here?

iii). How does the poet attempt to make the poem interesting in these lines?



- 
- i). From the poem 'The Camel's Hump'
 - li) the ill mentioned here is getting a 'cameelious hump' that is black and blue as a result of being lazy and inactive.
 - lii). The poet uses alliteration and internal rhyming to make it interesting.



Upside Down - Alexander Kushner

- Heavy with hyperbolic and absurd action, this poem brings to our attention how one's vanity and desire to impress others by going out of the norm in an extreme manner may lead you to the level of an absurd fool
- 



Essay Q

“ Alexander Kushner sees vanity as no source of esteem and recognition. ”

Discuss reerring to 'Upside Down'



- 
- We see how the protagonist of the poem deliberately do the opposite of the expected in search of esteem and recognition falsely thinking that his actions would make other pay attention to him contrary to the wise advice of the aunt that it is by following the rule and norms of the society that one can gain respect.
 - It is his vanity that makes him seek recognition in such an absurd manner which give nothing but society' censure.

- 
- “ He eyed it this way, eyed it that,
 - then he stuck it in his hat.”

 - i). Where are these lines taken from?
 - li). What does ‘ it ’ refer to ?
 - lii). What picture of ‘ he ’ do these words create?

- 
- i). From 'Upside Down'
 - |
 - i). 'It' refers to the letter full of kind advice sent by the aunt that he totally disregards.

 - lii). How he pays scant regard for the letter by an elder shows how arrogant he is which only paints a negative an unfavourable picture of him

The Huntsman - Edward Lowbury

- Based on a Kenyan folk lore, the poem shows the ill effects of failing to maintain discretion in speech through the unexpected fate of an African hunter.
- Carrying an unexpected twist in the story , 'the Huntsman' creates humour through the fate of the huntsman who could have been
- A glorious huntsman if ever had he been to control his vanity.



Essay Q

“Edward Lowbury sees survival as an act that is more of wisdom than bravery” Do you agree?



- 
- Kagwa is a brave huntsman that dares even to hunt a lion but he was not wise in his actions as he was so foolish as to talk of a talking skull to a king which is unusual and something that he can not prove. He was not even discreet enough to understand the real sense of what the Skull was saying which was indeed a warning to use discretion in one's speech. It is his lack of discretion that bring him death and his fate proves that more than bravery it is discretion and the ability to choose the best path that ensures survival.



“ The skull said nothing. Kagwa implored.
But the skull said nothing.”

i). From where are these lines taken?

ii). How does the poet show Kagwa's
desperation?

iii). How does the poet create suspense in these
lines?



- 
- i). The poem 'The Huntsman'
 - ii). By showing how he begs for life and 'implored' mercy from the guards.
 - iii). By creating an contrast added with repetition. Even when Kagwa implored the skull remains silent.

Two's company - Raymond Wilson

- A funny poem with an unexpected tragic end where the protagonist finds his worst fear coming true, 'Two's Company' is a poem that relies on the difference between reality and appearance in order to bring about humour.
- The poem reveals how Vanity and overestimation of one's ability leads to one's doom.



Essay Q

“Overestimation and vanity carries the perfect recipe for a sad story.”

Examine in relation to the poem by Raymond Wilson.





The protagonist of the story who claims that he is not afraid of ghosts and even challenges his friends or villagers to spend a night at a haunted house does so thinking so high of himself and trying to prove that he is better than other who fear ghosts.



However as he steps in to the house as the dusk falls and the haunchback moon rises is to meet his worst fears come true that would bring him the most tragic end to his life

- 
- “ Come, come it is merely nerves, he is certain
 - (but just the same, he draws the curtains)”

 - i). From where are these lines taken?
 - li). Who speaks these lines?
 - What is the purpose of speaking these
 - lines?
 - lii). Whose idea are carries in the brackets?
 - What is the technique used?
 - what purpose does these words serve?

- 
- i). From the poem Two's Company
 - li). The protagonist who claimed he does not believe in ghosts. He speaks these lines to himself as a means of consoling himself against the rising fear in him.
 - lii). Poet's ideas are in the brackets.
 - parenthesis is the technique that brings out the poet's comment that reveals the true nature of the protagonist that evokes irony and the resulting humour.



- PROSE

The Lumber Room - Saki

- A short story set in the Victorian England, it brings out a constant struggle between the insensitive world of adults and the world of children. We see how the adults constantly try to impress upon the children and get them to act according to the wishes of the adults and also how the children constantly try to challenge the supremacy and the oppressive authority of the adults that treats them as small versions of adulthood with rigid discipline and a high moral code of self-denial.



Essay Q

- “Lumber Room is a story that reveals a constant never ending struggle taking place in frozen muteness.” Discuss.
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- 
- It is about a constant struggle between adults and children that was taking place in the Victorian society of the 19th century England that goes mostly unnoticed



“ She was a woman of few ideas, with immense power of concentration.”

i). Where are these lines taken from?



ii). Who is ‘ she ’ mentioned?

iii). How does these words create a very negative picture of , ‘ she ’ ?

- 
- I). From The Lumber Room BY Saki
 - li). The Aunt
 - lii). The words suggest that she is not a shrewd person but who has immense powers of concentration to find a flaw in another person's character.

The Nightingale and the Rose – Oscar Wilde

- A surprising blend of fairy tale elements and reality and social criticism presented through a beautiful use of language, it reveals a story of a society that has lost the value of the heart and heartfelt passions and has begun to value all that is material and practical and bookish knowledge that turns humanity into a cold frozen winter which can not blossom a red rose.



Essay Q

Oscar Wilde sees a society beyond hope or redemption in his short story, 'The Nightingale and the Rose' Discuss.



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- It is a society that values and worship the wrong elements in life giving too much prominence to rationality , materialism and money and book knowledge over the feelings of the heart which makes a person a human . We see nothing but a group of unfeeling , money minded and cynical group of beings both human and non human except the Nightingale and the Owl in this story who never see what is wrong in throwing a red rose to a gutter and valuing jewels over a red rose.

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- “ For a rose? They cried . How very ridiculous and the little lizard , who was something of a cynic laughed outright.”
 - i). From where are these lines taken from?
 - li). Who are ‘they’ mentioned?
 - lii). How do they differ from the Nightingale?

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- i). From 'The Nightingale and the Rose.'
 - ii). The lizard butterfly and the Daisy who represent that society and who not value the heart and do not believe in human emotions such as love and passion and values nothing but rational thinking of the mind.
 - iii). The nightingale values the feelings of the heart and understands the sufferings caused by the feeling of love in a young man's heart.



Wave - Sonali Derraniyagala

- Extracted from her memoir that deals with the harrowing experience of getting tossed and lost by the Tsunami wave of 2004 December, the extract brings to our attention a n experience full of danger and suspense where Sonali and her family grapples against an unknown threat that looms above them.
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Essay Q

- Sonali's "Wave" presents not a mere struggle against an unknown natural danger but also a struggle against heartfelt emotions.
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- It is a struggle against an unknown danger as they have never been aware of what a Tsunami is and it is only due to survival instinct that they run for safety and due to their parental instincts that they do their best to save the children risking their lives
 - It is also a struggle against heartfelt emotions as Sonali had to leave their parents unwarned and defenseless in their run and had to be silent as their jeep left her friend's mother and the father behind as they felt there was no time left .

Lahore Attack - Kumar Sangakkara

- Based on the actual event of the Sri Lanka Cricket team becoming under a terror attack, this extract from a memorial speech reflects the best in Kumar Sangakkara not merely as a clever orator but a sensitive human being, a keen patriot, an admirable leader and a sportsman.

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Essay Q

- Examine what elements make Sangamkkara emerge as a eloquent orator in this speech extract , ` Lahore Attack`
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- He makes the speech more dramatic and immediate by using present tense as he refers to the attack
 - Adds humour and variety as he refers to Paranawithan's fate in debut tour.
 - He is sincere and honest and even confessional in his expression as he tells how his life was not disturbed by war and also tells how he feels about the average Lankans who were constantly facing danger.

DRAMA



The Bear – Anton Chekhov

- This is a one act farce that relies on human weaknesses in order to evoke laughter presenting them with a touch of exaggerated caricature and a ironic reversal.
 - Coupled with highly improbable actions and unexpected ending we see how two enemies at first turn to ardent lovers as the drama reach the end.
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Essay Q

- Examine the different twists in the Popova and Smirnov Conflict that not only brings humour but brings them together.
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- At first they argue over money as Smirnov demands money on that instant and Popova refuses to do so on very sentimental grounds which drives Smirnov to be impolite and bitterly sarcastic and insulting.
 - Later as Smirnov begins to generally demean and insult women as backbiters and as unfaithful, it makes her defiant and defend women's honour which aggravate the conflict as both of them act impolitely it creates humour.



However as Smirnov gets personal and insults Popova referring to how she still does her make up while in weeds, She loses her temper too and begins to call him names that leads to a duel with pistols.



The initial conflict over money later leads to a conflict over gender and finally it turns in to a conflict over love as Smirnov professes love and she goes on refusing her while unsuccessfully trying to suppress her instinctive desire to be loved.

Twilight of the crane- Junji Kinoshita.

- A modern Japanese Drama set in a rural setting, it symbolically represents how Japan lost its innocence and traditional life as it embraced Modernity and Westernization that includes Capitalist values and American style consumerism.



Essay Q

Examine how in different way the Senba-ori is viewed by different characters at different stages of the drama by Kinoshita.



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- At first Tsu weaves and presents it to Yohyo as a token of love and gratitude for saving her life. Later she does so to please him and finally out of desperation to preserve her love and marriage.
 - At first Yohyo regards it as a child being so joyful to see its beauty, as he gets corrupted by the company of Unzu and sodo he begins to yearn for it as it helps him to earn money.

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- However as he gets so influenced by Sodo, he begins to see Senba -ori as a means o making more money and making his dreams come true by reaching Kyoto and demands it to be sewn with no care and love for Tsu. Finally he hold on to them in grief as a symbolic reminder of Tsu's love for him and a priceless gift he lost in his fool heartedness.
 - Sodo and Unzu regard it as something that can give them thousands of dollars and immense profit as they are able to fool Yohyo

NOVEL

Vendor of Sweets – R.K.Narayan

- A novel set in Post Colonial India in a fictitious town , Narayan brings a conflict between a caring but timid father and a spoilt son that is also symbolic of the clash of cultures between the East and the West delivered with a touch of satire.



Essay Q

Examine what purpose does Narayan try to achieve with a long narrative of Jagan's marriage to his wife.



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- Humour
 - Reflect the sacredness of marriage in a Hindu context.
 - Hindu traditions related to marriage.
 - Offer a contrast to Mali's attitude to marriage that is influenced by his western way of thinking.
 - To show why Mali is so special to Jagan and why he tries not to offend Mali in every way possible.

