

The Way to Answer

General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination,

April 2011

English I I

2. (a)
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|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| (1) a | (2) c | (3) c | (4) d | (5) d |
| (6) b | (7) d | (8) b | (9) c | (10) b |
- (b)

The Lanka critical election National 1971 system Sinhala the politicized responsible which hitherto a younger speaking of policy of now education disappointed was stagnant to socialization increase youth turned resulted a first Further, Socialist increasingly and more	modern is happenings victory Socialist Insurrection. of Language emergence vernacular for transferred powerful sinhala generation national the who this had and frustrated the economy, the policies in groups to in development time the and apparent seventies intensely	history marked namely of Coalition The revivalists reforms of intelligentsia the power westernized speaking of reformist new as new high professions and outcome financial Government's and unemployment. still drastic the seen in impact Communist in in in	of by the Mr. and Buddhist and resulted a that election from elite intelligentsia. this group Sinhala a education aspirations found angry. of pressures nationalization the These strongly measures 1971 for Sri of ideologies the literature drama.	Sri two 1956 Bandaranaike's the Education the in highly was victory the to A Sinhala products Education result trend in themselves This a due and resulting disappointed nativist, which insurrection, the Lanka. the became sixties and
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- (1) The subject of this conversation is Signor Carella whom Miss Abbot is in love with and wishes to marry.
 - (2) Miss Abbot does not care about social differences but regards love as the basis of marriage but her brother-in-law Mr. Herriton, is snobbish yet practical and considers social status and a good job to be the basic requirements for marriage.
 - (3) The conversation is between Philip Herriton and his sister-in-law Miss Abbot, Philip, apparently, is older and seems to assume a protective attitude towards Miss Abbot and also wishes her to marry someone with status and high connections. Miss Abbot seems rather afraid of him but covers up this attitude by trying to answer boldly.
 - (4) Kicking his heels - not doing anything definite
 general conscription - all able people enlisted
 crack regiment - the one regarded as the best
 really unworldly - unambitious, unselfish and not materialistic
 - (5) The conversation starts in a formal manner with "What is he please?". The speaker doesn't seem approve of what he is asking about. The girl senses this disapproval and tries to stand her ground by answering in a careless, rather audacious manner knowing what she says will not be approved of. Finally the questioner, Philip, becomes openly sarcastic and Miss Abbot sensing his complete disapproval and disgust appeals for an end to the sarcasm and answers honestly.
- (4) (i) 'They' are factory workers who have been working all night on a night shift.
 - (2) Their lives are different in that they work all night under fluorescent lights and with the continuous loud sound of machines. Tired out, they get home at breakfast time when their wives leave for work. They sleep during day time and get up to leave for work when the sun is going down and the moon is coming up.
 - (3) The line means that for them the normal timework, life pattern is completely disrupted and their lives and normal work blindly follow a topsy-turvey schedule.
 - (4) Imagery such as sun and moon, working wives going for work in the morning, the sun and the moon shining together bring out the completely unnatural topsy-turvey lives the night workers live for them night merges into day and day into night with no respite.
 - (5) The poet regards these night shift workers with sympathy and understanding. For them the hours are dislocated day after day. Their family life is disrupted with their working wives leaving home at the time they get home fatigued and numbed by factory noise, they wake when the day is over and its back to night work. The poet sees their mechanical lives, feels for them but sees no respite.

Part A

01.

- (a) These lines, from Shakespeare's play "Othello", are spoken by Othello when he sets foot on Cyprus after a storm-ridden voyage and is met by Desdemona who had arrived earlier. They had got married, in Venice, just a few days earlier and immediately after Othello had to leave for Cyprus to defend it against an Ottoman attack which fortunately did not materialize. These lines give expression to the great love he had for Desdemona. The last line is ominous for it brings in the unknown fate that is to follow soon.
- (b) These are lines from Shakespeare's comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The words are those of Bottom the weaver who with his friends was practising a play. Puck's pranks with the magic juice has made the Fairy queen Titania fall in love with Bottom who has been given an ass's head by Puck. Titania expresses her deep admiration and loved for Bottom and these lines are his response. The response sounds foolish but Titania thinks it's as wise as he is beautiful.
- (c) This is an extract from Anton Chekov's play "The Seagull". The words are those of Trigorin, a popular writer and lover of the popular actress Arkadina. He is speaking to Nina, a young girl who dreams of becoming a great actress. Trigorin writes one story after another and here the seagull that has been shot gives him an idea. The seagull itself plays a symbolic role in the play and in this extract it refers to Nina while the plot idea is a foretaste of what happens to Nina after she runs away to become an actress.
- (d) This is an extract from Garcia Lorca's play "The House of Bernarda Alba." These words are addressed to Adela, the youngest daughter of Bernarda, by Poncia their maid who has been in the family for a long time. She is very observant, understands each of them well and does not hide what she has to say. The girls are all in love with Pepe el Romano who is to marry Bernarda's eldest daughter Angustias who inherits wealth. Poncia has noticed Adela's attempts to get Pepe for herself. She knows Adela is deeply in love with him but she advises Adela to control herself explaining that Angustia will not last and then Pepe will marry Adela. This advice is correct and moral though Adela resents it. This is in keeping with the main theme of Lorca's plays - desire - which the characters cannot really pinpoint and as a result they are unhappy and frustrated.
- (e) These words are spoken by the tramp Estragon to his fellow tramp and companion Vladimir in Samuel Becket's play "Waiting for Godot." The scenery refers to a single tree. Estragon has, overnight forgotten the happenings of the day before and Vladimir reminds him of them and how they tried to hang themselves on the tree. The extract brings out the sameness of their lives with nothing happening.

02.

- (a) In this extract from Charles Dickens's novel "Great Expectations". Miss Havisham has been given the indentures for Pip's apprenticeship with Joe at the forge. The papers are given by Joe to Pip who gives them to Miss Havisham. The old lady asks Joe whether he expected a premium with the boy. Joe does not answer, and when Pip urges him to speak Joe gives this reply and seems rather hurt. The answer shows Joe's sense of honour and Miss Havisham too seemed to realize it.
- (b) This is an extract from Jane Austen's novel 'Sense and Sensibility,' and the words are those of Willoughby who on hearing about Marianne's illness had rushed to Cleveland the home of the Palmers. Now married to a rich woman whose only attraction for him was wealth he was trying to explain to Elinor his shabby treatment of Marianne and the incident of his relationships with Colonel Brandon's 'ward' Eliza. The extract given here refers to this incident for which he feels the girl too is to blame. The attempt to explain himself brings out his weakness of character as well as the remorse he now felt when wealth brought him no happiness.

- (c) This is an extract from Nadine Gordimer's novel "July's People" which deals with the Black - White issue in South Africa under Apartheid. The Blacks, discriminated against for years by the white government have arisen against the Whites and the Smales, a more liberal - minded family are conducted to safety by July, their employee for fifteen years. In his village the Smales adjust themselves to the near-primitive type of living. In dry seasons water is difficult and Bam Smale improvises a tank. This is what the Smale's eldest boy Victor comes excited, exclaiming about. He regards the water in the tank to be theirs alone - the White attitude - But his mother asks him who owns the water - water which is naturally free and basically needed by all humans. The boy still cries "It's ours". But July tactfully points out to Victor that his father is a clever man, there is plenty of rain, everyone is happy and the father's clever move has pleased everyone - The way things should be in the country.
- (d) This is an extract from Nihal Silva's novel "The Road from Elephant Pass". In a conversation Kamaka asks Wasantha how his Scholarship Fund Monitor Mr. Karl Dias, who had had so much influence on him, died. He had been knocked down by a bus and Wasantha who was so overcome by the loss had searched for the driver, who had been dismissed by the bus owner, and traced him to his home in a remote Akuresa village. Wasantha's intention was revenge but the plight of the dismissed driver, the poverty in which he and his family lived, the conditions under which he had worked, touched Wasantha who even gave him some money. This reveals the kindness and understanding of Wasantha and also paves the way for Kamala to indirectly suggest that he should not be in the Army. This was due to her concern for him but she gives it a humorous twist by saying he should have been in the Wild Life Department, and not in the army.
3. This extract is from the short story 'Professional Mourners' by Alagu Subramaniam. The story revolves round the death of a grandmother in, apparently, Jaffna, in bygone days and "the show of grief" in accordance with obsolete cultural practices organized by an uncle who takes upon himself the role of 'Master of Ceramones'. Juxtaposed with this is genuine sorrow expressed in private. The incident is presented through the eyes of a child, a grandson who 'sees it all' from an observer's point of view.

The extract present the reaction of the Master to the non - arrival of the 'professional mourners', poor, low - caste women who are expected to wail and howl in grief at the funeral. He goes angrily in search of them. He finds two sister - mourners whose mother has just expired. Naturally, they cannot come. They will come on the next occasion (funeral). This makes the 'Master' rant and fume as seen in the extract. It exposes the hypocrisy, the false social standards and above all the feudalistic attitudes of a class and caste structured society of (hopefully) a by-gone age.

4. This is an extract from the poem "Disabled" by Wilfred Owen. In this striking poem, Owen who had first - hand experience of the horrors of war (the first world war), presents in the mind -set of a young popular athlete now maimed for life and completely dependent on others, the lasting damage war can do.

The extract refers to the false ideas of the glory of war and enlistment which made him join the army, even giving a false age as he was still a teenager.

In this extract we see the false, unreal attitude to war which made him enlist. It was the heroism, glory and the perks and fan - fare that made him enlist, together with the wish to show off to his girl friend Meg and the other "giddy jilts". He had no thought of the enemy (the Germans) he would have to fight against - just fantasy and imaginary glory. Now confined to a wheel chair, a maimed dependent with his blasted life before him, he recalls with bitterness the false illusion of war.

5. Drama

(a) "Desdemona's tragedy was that she loved and trusted all human beings" Discuss

Shakespeare's play "Othello" is a domestic tragedy centering on the relationship between Othello the Moor, General of Venice, and the young Venetian society beauty Desdemona. The tragedy appears to be the outcome of the machinations of the villain Iago but the basic factors that cause the tragedy are seen to arise from the chief protagonists themselves.

According to the statement given Desdemona "loved and trusted all human beings." Desdemona was very young and being the daughter of Brabantio a senator and a person of high standing in Venice, she would have led a sheltered life moving in a limited social setup. Apparently she had no mother for she ran the house. For instance though she longed to listen to Othello's account of his experiences.

"...the house affairs would draw her thence

Which ever as she could with haste despatch

she'd come again....."

Her elopement and marriage with Othello despite so many differences and the explanation she gives to her father in the presence of the Duke and others, about where her first duty lies brings out the depth and sincerity of her love for Othello. Her unstinting efforts to help Cassio to regain his place and the trust she places in the cunning Iago, all seem to display her love and trust where people were concerned.

But other factors too contribute to her tragedy - factors that come from her nature and upbringing.

Her extreme innocence and childishness and her passive obedience are also responsible for her tragedy. For instance in her efforts to help Cassio regain his lost position she tells him.

"... My Lord shall never rest

I'll watch him tame and talk him out of patience.

..... I'll intermingle everything he does

With Cassio's suit,"

and true to her word, even when he more or less agrees to call him back but not just then, she childishness continues her plea with

"But shall it be shortly?"

"Shall it be tonight at supper?"

"Why then, tomorrow night or Tuesday Morn?"

I prithee, name the time, but let it not

Exceed three days...."

By overdoing and over - reacting - emphasising repeatedly her love for Cassio - making comments that make Othello believe Iago's wicked insinuations, she unwittingly makes the situation caused by jealousy, worse. Further she foolishly trusts Iago for instance asking him

"Am I that name, Iago?"

When Othello calls her "strumpet"

Thus Desdemona's tragedy is her all - embracing love and trust together with other factors such as childishness, innocence and obedience.

Concerning the story it would not be quite wrong to say that Elinor rep-
Elinor though only nineteen had "strength of understanding and coolness of judgement." Her feelings were strong but
she knew how to govern them." Marianne too was "sensible and clever but eager in everything. Her feeling "could have
no moderation and she was not prudent."

Both sisters have their romantic involvements. The attachment of Elinor and Edward Ferrars was one that started
with 'liking and esteem' sentiments completely disapproved by Mariannie who could never love by halves and to whom
an attachment meant an engagement and Elinor explains to her that "there are other points to be considered" in an
attachment. Marianne's involvement with Willoughby starts in full strength from the outset. There is no concealment
of their feelings for each other wherever they happen to be, giving the impression that they are engaged and a marriage
is settled. Mrs. Dashwood who is as sentimental as Marianne feels displeased with Elinor when she wants confirmation
of an engagement.

Despite her intense love for and confidence in Willoughby, the perfect match she has found, and the wrong
impression created that everything is settled and they are engaged, Marianne soon finds herself dropped and ignored
by Willoughby and she reacts badly to the disappointment even making herself ill through her own foolishness, and
nearly dying.

Elinor too has her problems. Edward seems diffident and sad. Lucy Steel reveals to Elinor, her engagement to
Edward and even asks Elinor for support. Elinor is deeply saddened by all this but keeps her thoughts and feelings to
herself giving all her thoughts and attention to Marianne and taking the necessary action wherever necessary. Marianne
on the other hand thinks all is well with Elinor and that she selfishly keeps her affair to herself. Her sad experiences,
resulting mostly from her foolishness and sentimentality do not help to give her maturely. It is only the revelation of
Elinor problems and the realization of how she handled them giving no trouble to others that makes Marianne realize
how wrong she has been.

Hence it is Elinor's experiences and not her own that bring maturity to Marianne.

c) **"The evolution of the character of July in 'July's People is symbolic of the changing relationship
between the coloniser and the colonised."** Discuss.

"July's People" by Nadine Gordimer is a novel dealing with Apartheid in South Africa and the rising reaction to
it among the indigenus people in the from of a revolution.

July is the South Africa servant of the Smales - Bam and Maureen - who with their three children had been living
and working in the city. The Smales had always treated their coloured servant July, well and when deteriorating relations
led to black attacks on whites, July brought the white family to the safely of his home - It was "not a village but a
habitation of mud houses occupied only by members of his extended family - "guiding them through the wilderness
in their bakkie.

The liberal employers - loyal - employee relationship continues with the Smales and their children quickly
adapting to the way of life in July's home. But gradually changes in attitude creep in. July weilds authority among his
people. The bakkie is hidden but July tinkers about with it. Gradually he takes the switch keys and drives it along with
another young man. Bam warns him about driving without a licence and the bakkie leading to their discovery. But July
has an answer.

"You know I'm tell them I get it from you in town. The bakkie is mine."

This tendency to 'reply', to disagree with the 'master's' order or opinion continues to develop in a subtle manner.
We see this for example in the discussion regarding medicine for Royce's cough and Bam having the car keys. In matters
that annoyed, Bam turned aside while Maureen handled July tactfully but there was a contempt and humiliation that
came from their blood and his."

2011

Next comes the episode of the gun which Bam kept hidden in the hatch of the hut; Daniel; the summons by the chief and the loss of the gun. The Chief wants to be taught to use the gun. Bam does not want this but "I come to see that gun. You teach me he" But Daniel vanishes, the gun goes with him.

Living as equals in July's Village changes their characters and relationships. It is no longer servant and master whites and blacks. July and his people stand up on their own reflecting the - future of the coloniser and the colonised.

- cut comes Shukumar tries to make - do with some left - over birthday candles which burn off in no time and Shukumar recalling a child - hood past - time when lights failed suggests taking turns at "saying something"

"Say something to each other in the dark"

..... telling each other something they've never told before"

This results in revealing personal secrets in the dark culminating in Shukumar's revelation that the baby was a boy. But darkness used in this manner brings no enlightenment - it makes the marital rift deeper.

The power cut ends earlier than expected but the temporary darkness has only brought sadness to their lives by bringing out what should have been left in the dark. Finally they switch off the lights themselves and weep for the things they now knew".

(b) Discuss your personal response to the story "Action and Reaction".

The short story 'Action and Reaction' by Chitra Fernando deals with a situation currently strongly prevalent in Sri Lanka. It is further written in language closely connected with the Sinhala idiom and normally spoken Sinhala. Perhaps it is these factors that give it a strong appeal to Sri Lankan readers in general and students in particular.

The exaggerated attitude to religion especially the rituals connected with religion and spending large sums on the embellishment of places of worship in the belief that it brings merit to the donor is widely practised, especially among female devotees. At the same time what is done in this manner is broadcast high and low giving the donor the public image of a paragon of virtue. This is what we see in Loku Nenda and her sharadda and later in Kusuma.

But the real virtues of any religion - love, kindness consideration care and doing ones best for all living things - sadly missing. What we see is hypocrisy and its repercussions. This is seen in what Kusuma turns out to be and in Loku Nenda's final stages. Further the misconceptions and misuse of 'Karma' or 'Fate' is another factor we find in our society. For instance, we see this in Loku Nenda's response to Mahinda's smoking on the sly.

The presentation of the story is very appealing and the psychological factors and issues of the false religious obsession provide an added interest to this short story which is highly topical and mirrors certain social and religious shortcomings we see around us.

(c) What is the theme of Hills Like White Elephant? Discuss with reference to the text.

The main theme of the short story "Hills Like White Elephant" is abortion, a controversial social issue that figured prominently in America during the writer, Ernest Hemingway's, time.

The Women's Liberation Movement had led to increasing demands for women's rights and freedom. At the same time extremist groups too emerged resulting in promiscuity and unwanted pregnancies. This resulted in illegal 'kitchen table' abortions which caused much suffering and even death.

In this story the girl Jig, and an American have met and got together during random travels through various countries. They go around trying out various eats and drinks and looking at places. But an unexpected pregnancy comes in the way of their enjoyments. It is in this instance that the masculine and feminine attitudes to illegal abortion come into general view. The man has a simple solution - abortion - for him it is "a simple operation".... "it's not really an operation at all".... "it's just to let the air in and then it's all perfectly natural".... "we'll be fine afterwards." This is the male view - a selfish attitude devoid of feeling.

But the girl's attitude is different. She is the one who has to undergo the operation - endure the physical pain and face the emotional conflict that this engenders. She wants to have the baby although she has not thought of what