

The Way to Answer
General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination,
April 2013
English II

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

Language and Culture

(b)

Intensive and inter Both understand Artificial due this are respect. communication depth Modern of native learners in the a in mindsets help language and attitudes of acceptance	research thought dependent sender its languages to culture politically Yet absence make research a language as cultures learner particular mutual understanding learns and to favourably. language is	shows to factors and underlying are the although inoffensive in of language shows native to similarities and a environment. understanding one's to culture judge Thus becomes established.	Language be in receiver value less lack such in inter feeling less the culture second and languages product This of own understand of behaviors the clear	culture important communication should system. popular of languages this cultural and effective. importance and language contrasts make of help different mindset the others and meeting and
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3.

- (1) The passage is about a class in a school to which a late-comer-a boy named Adrian - has come. The boys have already formed their cliques of friends but the opening line of the passage indicates that "he made a fourth". Perhaps he was accepted because of the cleverness and intelligence he showed in answering the question on Henry vill although he admitted to not being up in this period."

The events are presented through the point of view of the school boy narrator

- (2) The atmosphere of a real classroom is created by references to 'rows', 'intelligence' sense of discipline, the avoidance of being questioned by squinting at each other and keeping eyes averted.

This atmosphere is created by the master's questioning, the testing of the new boy, the fear of being questioned and the reference to Marshall the know-nothing of the class and the smartness of the new boy.

- (3) Joe Hunt is described by the boys as being "wryly affable" and maintaing sufficient but not excessive boredom. He understood the boys and knew it was no use questioning them when they kept their eyes averted and he diplomatically questioned the new boy only after he questioned the know-nothing Marshall. Thus he was tactful and diplomatic in his handling of the class He apparently was a good teacher.

- (4) He kept the class under control by tactful handling which would maintain a certain degree of interest but not raise enthusiasm.

- (b) a person who was careful not to display his ignorance yet did not have the ability to make-up or pretend like those who really knew nothing but could cover up their ignorance

- (5) The narrator does not seem to have much interest in learning but just sits through the lessons hopefully avoiding being questioned or lessons he has not prepared by averting his glance to avoid the teacher's eye. At the same time he looked forward to the time when he would leave school. As he says he and his friends "were already beginning to imagine (their) escape from school into life."

This makes the tone of the poem reflect boredom as well as sarcasm.

4. Poem

- (1) The poem "Globalization" presents two very different aspects of life, one in the affluent west represented by Mr. Shuttleworth and the other in Sri Lanka shown through Gunapala and Kusumawathi. In the first scene the affluent Shuttleworth, with more wealth than he needs, is spending it on rockets to outer space and the moon. He ironically terms it "a great step for mankind" that would benefit medical science and thereby be a boon to "mankind and womankind".

In the second stanza we see the poverty-stricken Gunapala from Hiripitiya suffering due to his inability to buy a six-hundred rupee inhaler to relieve his acute asthma which can lead to cardiac arrest. His field and chena are barren, his wife is unable to sell their 'wattaka' by the roadside while Shuttleworth "shuttles" flies and floats.

- (2) Those scenes differ due to various reasons. The affluent countries represented by Shuttleworth think in the air; selfishly they seek power and domination through wealth but call it help to mankind. Poverty and dire poverty like Gunapala's is unknown to them and unseen by them.

On the other hand poverty, lack of knowledge and education, lack of help and trying to put lack of enterprise and effort down to 'karma' as a last resort, would account for the scene presented in the second stanza.

- (3) The theme is the inequality in distribution of wealth and the selfish big-headed domineering of the power-seeking affluent countries that talk of 'Globalization' and the global village but neither see the plight of or care for the rest of the world.

This theme is brought out through the sharp contrast presented in the two scenes and through the use of irony and sarcasm which is used throughout the poem.

"Science is so dear, that

Only Shuttleworth will shuttle fly and float"

or

("To purchase the imported inhaler is a fortune for Earthbound Gunapala")

- (4) The poet is disillusioned with and critical of the highly boosted term of 'Globalization' which is boasted about by powerful affluent countries but has no real practical application.
- (5) The tone is one of sarcasm.

The technique used is primarily the contrast drawn between the two scenes. The title too, in the context of the body of the poem, reveals the falseness of the term. The language used is concentrated, full of irony and close to normal spoken language

"Even the heap of 'wattake' by the roadside they cannot sell
or send to Colombia is all fruit of 'Karma'."

The final lines of each stanza have a sharp-telling effect.

"Only Shuttleworth will shuttle fly and float"

and

"She is not Shuttleworth either"

To purchase the important inhaler is a fortune for Earthbound Gunapala."

"Even the sell or send 'karma'

English I

Part A

01.

- (a) This extract is from Shakespeare's play "Othello" and the words are those of Iago addressed to Roderigo, who is in love with Desdemona who has now got married to Othello. Iago who has been taking money from Roderigo on the pretext of helping him to win Desdemona is now trying to continue the pretention by attempting to convince the greatly disappointed Roderigo that Desdemona will soon tire of Othello and that it is strong will-power that is necessary for Roderigo to win her. Shakespeare's highly suitable use of imagery is seen in this instance.
- (b) This extract from Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" contains part of a retort by Hermia to Helena, her erstwhile friend, who she now accuses of having stolen Lysander's love from her. The quarrel was started when Lysander spurned Hermia saying
- "I do hate thee and love Helena" Hermia believes that the change has been manipulated by Helena making use of her personality and height-showing Hermia to be "dwarfish" and low, but making a pun of "low" she threatens she could scratch out Helena's eyes.
- (c) These lines figure in Anton Chekov's play "The Seagull", and they are said by the popular actress Arkadina to Dorn a popular ladies - man who plays the role of observer and audience in the play with no direct involvement in the plot. Arkadina is the queen of the traditional stage holding that position although she is nearing fifty. Her words here show her vanity, selfishness and pride. She looks after herself so well that she can even take the part of "a fifteen-year-old girl." The other character present at this moment is Masha who is the reverse of the well-preserved Arkadina.
- (d) This extract is from "The House of Bernarda Alba" the play by Garcia Lorca and the words are spoken by Poncia, the maid who has been in the family for years. The reference is to Bernada's eldest daughter Angustias who has been scolded and struck by the arrogant, snobbish, tyrannical mother, Bernarda, for looking out through a crack in the door while the men were around. Poncia who is also prudish and aware of her mistress's cruelty and snobbishness tries to speak up for Angustias while also pleasing Bernarda.
- (e) This is an extract from Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot" and it is part of a conversation between the two tramps almost at the start of the play. The words are spoken by Vladimir to Estragon. The dialogue in the play shifts abruptly from one subject to another with nothing conclusive being achieved. Here, the conversation has suddenly shifted to the "two thieves" crucified at the same time as Christ. Then in the same abrupt manner Vladimir starts taking about the "four Evangelists" In the confusing exchange of words it is hardly clear as to who says what and it ends with "They don't agree and that's all there is to it" and it leads to Estragon stating that "people are bloody ignorant apes." This short episode typifies the Theatre of the Absurd.

2.

- (a) In this extract from Charles Dickens's novel "Great Expectations" we see the reaction of Miss Havisham to her relative Sarah Pocker's response to Miss Havisham's reception of Pip who is now to go to London to be educated to be a gentleman. Before leaving the village Pip visits Miss Havisham and finds that Estella is abroad and Sarah Pocker is with Miss Havisham. Pip believes that Miss Havisham is his secret benefactor. The old lady too question's Pip, advises him and gives him special treatment but it's not because Pip is so special to her but to get the cruel satisfaction of making Sarah jealous. This shows her spiteful nature.
- (b) This extract is from Jane Austen's novel "Sense and Sensibility." It is a conversation between Elinor and her half brother John Dashwood and the reference is to Lucy Steel. Lucy's secret engagement to Edward Ferrars has been inadvertently revealed by Lucy's sister Nancy while they were at the Ferrars on the invitation of Fanny. The revelation caused a sensation and John Dashwood too came to give the news to Elinor. His reply to Elinor's query brings out the snobbishness of the Ferrars and John Dashwood as well as their false values.

- (c) Of in this extract from the novel "July's People" by Nadine Gordimer the changing servant-master relationship has been roused by Maureen asking for the switch keys and then further aggravating the tension by inquiring after July's "town woman" Ellen. July replies assuming the servant - madam style that Ellen may have gone to a black village - a small one which like his own is safe for black people - it touches on the fact that the Smales too have been brought by him to the safety of his village.
- (d) Nihal de Silva's novel "The Road from Elephant pass" is the source of this extract. The Sinhala Army Captain Vasantha and the Tamil LTTE cadre were trekking through the jungle to get to Colombo. The only feelings between them at this stage were animosity, distrust and complete lack of understanding. The woman, Kamala Velaithan kept a dead-pan face registering no emotion until the sight of a hawk-eagle perched on a branch caught her interest. She had never seen one before and she thought it "magnificent" This sudden but brief exposure of interest was the first shared interest that developed and slowly and made them see each other as people or human beings.
3. In this extract from the short story "The Boarding House" by James Joyce we see the anxiety, vacillation and mental torture that Mr Doran undergoes as he awaits the call for the encounter with Polly's mother Mr Mooney which he knew was now near at hand. The mother and daughter have entrapped Doran into a marriage which his narrow Catholicism, his family commitments, his false social values, his own weakness and moral paralysis have made impossible to avoid but is also mental torture. His confessions to the priest have more or less sealed his fate and have made him the easy prey of the cunning mother and daughter. This reflects one aspect of the Irish social set-up - the narrow religious idea of sexism being a sin for which reparation is a must at any cost.
4. These lines are from the poem "Avarice" by the Metaphysical poet George Herbert. It is in the form of a sonnet and the given extract is the third quatrain. The poem deals with the false value man has given to money making it a bane to happiness and bliss, leading to materialistic attitudes. Money is personified; the gold dug from underground has been coined with the stamp of human beings and the head of a monarch and made a dominant force over man making man fall "into a ditch"

Part B

5. Drama

- (a) To what extent does Desdemona's behaviour lead to her tragic end? Support your view with examples from the text.

In Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" Desdemona is the beautiful affectionate unspoilt daughter of Brabantio who loves Othello and marries him. She is dutiful and intelligent and this is seen in her answer to her father

"..... so much duty as my mother showed

To you, preferring you before her father,

So much I challenge, that I may profess

Due to the Moor, my lord"

However the marriage ends in tragedy with Othello killing Desdemona. The reasons for the tragedy stem from various sources. Behind it all is the villainous, jealous vindictive Iago. But Iago alone is not responsible for the tragedy. There are other factors too. For instance the difference in nationality and social status and the fact that Othello's experience had been solely confined to war and adventure with almost no experience of domestic and family life and emotions connected with these areas of life. Together with this there was his trust in people and an easily roused jealousy and a strong but perhaps misplaced sense of honour.

However weakness on Desdemona's side too contributed to the tragedy. She was rather childish in her attitudes and inexperienced and also may have been over-protected. As Brabantio says

A maiden never bold; of spirit so still and quiet that her motion blushed at herself;

In trying to help Cassio to regain his honour and position she keeps on pleading even after Othello says

"..... let him come when he will; I will deny thee (Desdemona) nothing"

But even with this assurance given she pursues the matter childishly wanting to know when it will be done.

Desdemona :- "Good love, call him (Cassio) back."

Othello :- Not now, sweet Desdemona, some other time"

Desdemona :- But shall it be shortly?

..... shall it be tonight at supper?

..... Tomorrow dinner then?

..... Why then tomorrow night?

Further, she openly talks about her love for Cassio - an innocent love which can easily be misinterpreted.

..... for the love I bear Cassio"

Thus Desdemona is partly responsible for the tragedy due to her lack of experience childishness, frankness and trust.

of 'romance', that is more 'stand-out' in the novel covering various facets of 'romance'. Hence Austen's criticism of romantic love is seen more effectively through Lucy Steele.

(c) "Nadine Gordimer deals with the clash of cultures and personalities in July's People" According to your view which is more prominent Support your view with examples from the text.

Nadine Gordimer's novel "July's People" deals with the period of Apartheid in South Africa. The background is an uprising of the coloured people against the whites and the story of the liberal-minded Smale family taken to the safety of his village by July their 'boy' or servant.

Despite hardships the Smales, Bam, Maureen and their children, make a great effort to adjust to living in July's native village. The children adjust easily though the elder boy Victor seems to assume leadership among his native friends. For instance it is "Victor and his gang of friends" who get excited over the water being taken by everybody. Bam explains "it is their water. It's for everybody" But the child insists "Ow, dad, its ours, its ours." The mother asks "Who owns the rain?" but it is July who pacifies and explains.

However as time passes attitudes change. July working at the Smale's home was a faithful employee but July in his own village was not only the head of his family but also a man looked up to by the whole village. Naturally the employer - employee relationship changes. There is the question of the car keys, the giving of native medicine to the children by Maureen which July opposes.

Bam is easy-going but Maureen has a stronger personality and the clash of personalities between Maureen and July sets in. The visit to the Chief and the question of the gun hidden in the thatch by Bam and it being stolen is symbolic of changes in relationships. Underlying these changes is the difference in cultures rather than a clash of personalities. Hence what is more prominent in the book is the clash of cultures - the hitherto down-trodden coloured people becoming aware of their identity and need to regain their position as a community.

(d) "The Road from Elephant Pass" gives a balanced view of conflict" Discuss.

The novel "The Road from Elephant Pass" deals with the ethnic conflict that occurred in Sri Lanka. The implications of this conflict are presented through two characters, one a Sinhala Army Captain from the South and the other an LTTE woman cadre from the North. Circumstances throw them together forcing them to trek through the jungles from the north to the South helping each other in a struggle for survival - a struggle which brings in understanding acceptance and the warmth of human feeling.

At the start Wasantha and Kamala regard one another with contempt and hatred. But unexpected circumstances make interdependence a 'must' for survival. Communication is possible as both are fully conversant in English and on getting to know each others family backgrounds and unfortunate circumstances that embittered them they begin to understand one another as human beings and not bitter enemies. Through what they learn about each others backgrounds we see that their hatred is understandable and can increase due to lack of communication, explanation and understanding.

The situation they face, the hunt for food, the dangers they encounter from wild animals, their encounters with poachers and deserters and the mutual help that is essential create an understanding where the human factor plays the key role. Normal human feelings set in - love, willingness to sacrifice for the protection and welfare of each other.

Thus the novel presents a very balanced view of the conflict - the underlying reasons, the need for communication and dialogue, the need for the handling of misunderstandings and misconceptions and the emergence of the 'human factor' that would lead to a realization of a solution.

Short Stories

- (a) A successful story while rooted in a particular place and time, goes beyond these limitations and achieves universality. From your selection analyse either a story which can be called successful on this criteria or a story which can be called unsuccessful, based on this criteria.

Taking into consideration the short story "Action and Reaction" by Chitra Fernando we can determine whether it is successful or not. The story which has a completely local flavour focuses attention on a woman who is regarded by her family as the epitome of piousness. She too considers herself to be exactly this. Her story, the story of her extreme religiousness, is presented to us through the observations of her nephew, at the beginning as a child views it and later as an adult who, incidentally, comes from abroad.

Loku Nenda's 'Sharadha' and her following of 'the Karmic laws' are talked of and held up as shining examples within her family circle but what we see in her actions and in her attitude to others, especially those under her like Kusuma amply display hypocrisy. The punishment meted out to Kusuma as a child for eating a kavum, getting the man who wanted to marry her sent away from the area and denying her an education and making her grow up into a hard falsely-pious woman like herself, not only does it show her lack of true religiousness but also brings her the punishment she deserved for her falseness.

This story seems to be limited to one character and her actions in the name of religion. It is essentially confined to a particular set-up and the misguided, misconstrued following of one particular religion. But people like Loku Nenda with their false pride, selfishness and unkindness to others are found in all parts of the world, at all times and where all religions are concerned. As in the case of Loku Nenda they bring their own similar repercussions. So it is clear that this short story is a very successful one in view of the universality it achieves.

- (b) What would you say is the writer's intention in writing "Professional Mourners? Account for his success or failure.

The short story "Professional Mourners" by Alagu Subramaniam deals with a now (hopefully) non-existent practice resorted to when a person of high caste and high social connections dies. This was the custom of getting professional criers or mourners to present a loud display of unfelt sorrow to keep up appearances. In the story we see the custom and its implications through the experience of a young grandson at his grandmother's funeral.

The 'Master of Ceremonies', an uncle who has assumed the office of organizing a traditional -type funeral, forces the women belonging to a poor, low - caste family to come and 'mourn' while their own mother is lying dead in a poor house.

Through this incident and story the writer exposes the feudal stratification of society through the caste system. It brings out the unjust, heartless manner in which the so-called low-caste people are treated and obliged to obey the whims of those who class themselves as high-class. We are further shown the false show of grief that is organized at a funeral just to keep up appearances.

"Your father's lawyer friends are expected; His Honour the Supreme Court Judge and the Police Magistrate are coming and what will they think about us if we don't have enough mourners!"

The stratification of society due to the caste system has also given undue power to the higher castes to perpetuate and treat the lower castes just as they like. When the poor women who already have a death in their family offer to perform the funeral "when there is another funeral" the Master of Ceremonies yells at them.

"Insolence!" so you are wishing for another death in my house! Probably you desire mine I'll have you flogged by the Magistrate for such impudence."

The writer also shows the attitude of the younger generation towards the caste system through the nephew's reactions.