

ICSE Sample Question Papers for Class 10

Max. Marks: 100

Time: 3 hrs.

- Answer **one** question from Section **A** and **four** questions from Section **B**.
- In Section B choose questions on at least **three** textbooks which may include **EITHER** Shakespeare's *Macbeth* **OR** Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.
- If you answer two questions on any one text, do not base them on the same material.
- **Note:** You are required to select questions on **one play only, EITHER** *Macbeth* **OR** *Pygmalion* in Sections **A** and **B**.
- The intended marks for questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A (*Macbeth – Shakespeare*)

Question 1

[20]

Choose two of the passages (a) to (c) and answer briefly the questions that follow:

(a) **Banquo:** Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear

Things that do sound so fair?—I'th' name of truth

Are ye fantastical, or that indeed

Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner

You greet with present grace and great prediction

Of noble having and of royal hope

That he seems rapt withal. To me you speak not

If you can look into the seeds of time

And say which grains will grow and which will not

Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear

Your favours nor your hate.

- (i) Where is Banquo? Who is referred to as “noble partner”? [1]
- (ii) Who has started? What has this person just been told? [2]
- (iii) Explain the lines:

’th’ name of truth

Are ye fantastical, or that indeed

Which outwardly ye show? [2]

(iv) To what does Banquo refer to as “present grace”, “noble having” and “royal hope”? [2]

(v) What is Banquo told by the creatures? What does his attitude tell you about him? [2]

(vi) Give the meaning of the following words in the context of the passage: Fantastical; rapt [1]

(b) **Macbeth:** If we should fail?

Lady Macbeth: We fail?

But screw your courage to the sticking – place

And we’ll not fail. When Duncan is asleep

Whereto the rather shall his day’s hard journey

Soundly invite him, his two chamberlains

Will I with wine and wassail so convince

That memory, the warder of the brain,

Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason

A limbeck only. When in swinish sleep

Their drenched nature lies as in a death

What cannot you and I perform upon

Th’un guarded Duncan? what not put upon

His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt

Of our great quell?

- (i) Where are Macbeth and Lady Macbeth? What is taking place there? [2]
- (ii) Which decision does Macbeth convey to his wife? How does she react to this decision? [2]

(iii) Explain the lines:

But screw your courage to the sticking place
And we'll not fail
[1]

(iv) Which plan does Lady Macbeth now proceed to reveal to her husband? [1]

(v) How does Macbeth compliment her after listening to her plan?

Does her plan ultimately succeed? [2]

(vi) Give the meaning of the following words in the context of the passage:

Wassail; limbeck [2]

(c) **Messenger:** Bless you fair dame, I am not to you known,

Though in your state of honour I am perfect;
I doubt some danger does approach you nearly.
If you will take a homely man's advice,
Be not found here. Hence with your little ones.
To fright you thus, methinks I am too savage;
To do worse to you were fell cruelty,
Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you,
I dare abide no longer.

(i) Where is the messenger? Whom does he address as "fair dame"? [2]

(ii) What had the "dame" been complaining of just before these lines? [1]

(iii) What do her complaints tell you about her nature? [1]

(iv) Explain the lines:

I am not to you known
Though in your state of honour I am perfect
[1]

(v) Who is the source of danger that is threatening the lady? Why does this person

want to harm the lady?
[2]

(vi) What is the lady's reaction to the messenger's words of warning? [1]

(vii) Give the meanings of the following words in the context of the passage:

homely; nigh [2]

SECTION B

(Answer **four** questions on at least **three** textbooks which may include **EITHER** *Macbeth* **OR** *Pygmalion*.)

Macbeth – Shakespeare

Question 3 [20]

Give a vivid account of the encounter between the Witches and Macbeth and Banquo on the lonely heath. How do the prophecies of the witches affect the two generals?

Question 4 [20]

Unable to completely trust Macduff when the latter visits him in England, Malcolm puts him through an elaborate test. How does Malcolm test Macduff's loyalty and integrity? What do you conclude about Macduff from this scene?

Question 5 [20]

Discuss the dramatic significance of soliloquies in *Macbeth*.

HUES – An Anthology of Short Stories

Question 6 [20]

The short story 'Growing Up' charts the subtle shifts in the parent-child relationship as perceived by Robert Quick. Describe the events that lead to this new realization about his daughters.

Question 7 [20]

Referring closely to the short story 'The Portrait of a Lady' describe how the writer's grandmother remains an individual in her own right, refusing to be swamped by relationships, throughout the story.

Question 8 [20]

In the story 'A Village Cricket Match', the author has described a cricket match in a humorous manner. Comment.

STARLIGHT – G.K. DANTES

Question 9 [20]

What kind of sufferings does Whitman catalogue in the poem 'I Sit and Look Out'.

Question 10 [20]

Referring closely to the poem 'The Raven', discuss how the poet invests the poem with an atmosphere of suspense and melancholy.

Question 11 [20]

Discuss the symbolic significance of the poem 'The West Wind'.
