



අධ්‍යයන පොදු සහතික පත්‍ර (උසස් පෙළ) විභාගය, 2010 අගෝස්තු
கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர(உயர் தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2010 ஓகஸ்ட்
General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination, August 2010

ඉංග්‍රීසි II
ஆங்கிலம் II
English II

පැය තුනයි
மூன்று மணித்தியாலம்
Three hours

* Answer all questions.

* (Candidates are advised to spend one hour on the essay, 45 minutes on the precis and 35 minutes on each of the other questions.)

1. Either

Write an essay on one of the following topics:

(35 marks)

- Changing the 13th Amendment of the Constitution
- Speaking English Our Way : the issues for teachers and learners
- IIFA : Showcasing India or Sri Lanka?
- Taking computer literacy to the grassroots level
- Is there an alternative to sending women as housemaids to foreign countries for employment?

Or

Write a story incorporating the following sentence either at the beginning or at the end.

"I knew my days were numbered"

2. Write a precis of the following passage using your own words as far as possible. (25 marks)

- Begin the precis on a new sheet. Divide your paper into 5 columns and number the lines.
- Write the precis in approximately 140 words.
- State the number of words you have used.
- Supply a title for your precis.

Human society, within the home and without, depends upon constantly operative communication. Deprived of communication, society would cease to exist. Only apparently and externally is it a static sum of social institutions: actually and internally it is revived and creatively reaffirmed from day to day by particular acts of communication performed by individuals. For example, a political party cannot be said to exist as such, but only to the extent that its tradition is being constantly reinforced and upheld by such simple acts of communication as that John Citizen votes this way or that at elections, thereby communicating a certain message, or that groups of people meet, formally or informally, in order to communicate ideas to one another and eventually to determine what themes of national interest, real or supposed, are to be presented for discussion by members of the party. The political party itself as an historical entity is merely abstracted from thousands upon thousands of such single acts of communication which have in common certain persistent features of reference. If we extend this example into every possible field in which communication has a place, we soon realize that every cultural pattern and every social act involve communication of some kind. Language is a social necessity and the right conduct of discussion is utterly indispensable to every free society, whether political, religious, philosophical, commercial, or economic. The exercise of good and wise chairmanship is of prime importance in all kinds of assembly from parish council to international forum.

Numerous meetings are held every day in any civilized society. It is the chairman's responsibility to see that business is conducted in an orderly and expeditious manner; that matters for discussion are presented in such a form that those present will realize at once what they are being asked to consider and what may be expected to result from their decisions; that the decisions reached are relevant, precise, and unambiguous; and that deliberations are not prolonged by the introduction of irrelevant details, pointless repetitions, and unjustified obstructions. An efficient chairman has an easy command of language. He 'senses the feeling' of the meeting, governs it with firmness, and guides it with patience. He encourages discussion and does his best to persuade diffident members to express their views. He knows that freedom of speech is the most precious birthright of every 'open society' and that this freedom can be preserved only by tireless vigilance.

3. Read the following passage and answer the questions set on it using your own words as far as possible. (20 marks)

The two enemies stood glaring at one another for a long silent moment. Each had a rifle in his hand, each had hate in his heart and murder uppermost in his mind. The chance had come to give full play to the passions of a lifetime. But a man who has been brought up under the code of a restraining civilization cannot easily nerve himself to shoot down his neighbour in cold blood and without a word spoken, except for an offence against his hearth and honour. And before the moment of hesitation had given way to action a deed of Nature's own violence overwhelmed them both. A fierce shriek of the storm had been answered by a splitting crash over their heads, and ere they could leap aside a mass of falling beech tree had thundered down on them. Ulrich von Gradwitz found himself stretched on the ground, one arm numb beneath him and the other held almost as helplessly in a tight tangle of forked branches, while both legs were pinned beneath the fallen mass. His heavy shooting-boots had saved his feet from being crushed to pieces, but if his fractures were not as serious as they might have been, at least it was evident that he could not move from his present position till someone came to release him. The descending twigs had slashed the skin of his face, and he had to wink away some drops of blood from his eyelashes before he could take in a general view of the disaster. At his side, so near that under ordinary circumstances he could almost have touched him, lay Georg Znaeym, alive and struggling, but obviously as helplessly pinioned down as himself. All round them lay a thick-strewn wreckage of splintered branches and broken twigs.

Relief at being alive and exasperation at his captive plight brought a strange medley of pious thank-offerings and sharp curses to Ulrich's lips. Georg, who was nearly blinded with the blood which trickled across his eyes, stopped his struggling for a moment to listen, and then gave a short, snarling laugh.

- The passage begins with a reference to 'two enemies'. Who are they? Where does the meeting take place?
- What were their motives for meeting each other? What restrained their impulses?
- Explain the sentence, "And before the moment of hesitation had given way to action, a deed of Nature's violence overwhelmed them both," in your own words.
- What were the reactions of the two men to their 'plight'? What do these reactions reveal about their characters?
- What is the writer's attitude to violence in this passage?

4. Answer the questions on the following poem using your own words as far as possible.

(20 marks)

The woman sits at her desk

*The woman sits at her desk
by the open window, Night,
and the moon a silver sliver
drifting in a lace of light.
She writes a poem. Her husband sleeps.*

*In her poem she speaks of what she thinks
is the distant future: children grown
who have left her, and she alone.
Clusters of delicately scented
white flowers on trees
that are still saplings. They will bloom in vain.
And how long the day is,
and how only the curtains move
in a silent house.*

- (a) What is the theme of the poem the woman writes?
- (b) How does the imagery reflect the theme of the poem?
- (c) Explain the line "She writes a poem. Her husband sleeps."
- (d) What is the tone of the poem?
- (e) Comment on the atmosphere created by the poem.
