

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED

### ISC ENGLISH LITERATURE (2024)

#### The Tempest:

- ❖ Act 3 scene -1: Ferdinand and Miranda declare their love
  - Write about the romantic element in Act 3 sc-1/ How do Miranda and Ferdinand express their love for each other? Reaction of Prospero to their love affair.
  
- ❖ Act 3 scene -2: Caliban prompts Stephano and Trinculo to murder Prospero
  - Reasons for the different attitudes of Trinculo and Stephano towards Caliban.
  - How does Caliban express his gratitude to Stephano? What role does Ariel play, remaining invisible, and how do the others react to him?
  - Describe the assassination plot as hatched by Caliban. How does he instigate the other two i.e. Stephano and Trinculo?
  - Comment on Caliban's wickedness and poetic sense as displayed in Act 3 scene 2
  
- ❖ Act 3 scene -3: The magical banquet with Ariel as Harpy
  - Describe the banquet scene and write about the reactions of the people.
  - What does Ariel, disguised as a harpy, say to the three sinners? What effect does this speech have on Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio and Gonzalo?
  - How does Prospero express his admiration for Ariel?
  
- ❖ Act 4 scene-1: The betrothal of Ferdinand and Miranda; the celebratory masque; distress of the comic conspirators
  - How does Prospero agree to give his daughter in marriage to Ferdinand?
  - Describe the masque in detail. Write about the roles of Iris, Ceres and Juno.
  - Purpose of the masque.
  - How does Prospero explain his agitated mood to Ferdinand?
  - Where has Ariel led Caliban, Trinculo and Stephano to and what do they do there? What is Prospero's plan with the gaudy garments and how does the plan become successful?
  - How does Caliban try to dissuade the other two from falling into the trap?
  
- ❖ Act 5 scene-1: Renunciation; revelation and reconciliation
  - How does Ariel express his sympathy for the royal party? How does Prospero assure him?
  - How does Prospero express his gratitude to the fairies and spirits? What does he declare to do?
  - Write about Prospero's speech to the royal party. What effect does this speech have on Alonso and Gonzalo?
  - How does Prospero mislead Alonso into thinking that he, himself, has also lost his daughter? What amazing scene does Prospero reveal to Alonso and his group?
  - How does Gonzalo express the mood of the whole party at seeing Ferdinand and Miranda?
  - How does the Boatswain describe his experience?
  - Comment on Prospero's forgiveness for his enemies.
  - How does Prospero introduce Caliban to others?
  - How does Prospero welcome the party into his cell? What is he, himself, going to do?

❖ General Questions

- Use of Supernatural
- Theme of pursuit of power
- Theme of forgiveness and freedom
- Theme of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Character sketches : Prospero , Miranda , Ariel , Caliban , Ariel and Caliban contrast as servants. Antonio and Sebastian as villains

**Echoes:**

1. Fritz :

- ❖ Aptness of the title/ who was Fritz; whether a ghost or a supernatural being or just a figment of Jayanto's childhood imagination
- ❖ Importance of the setting/ How is the story aptly set in an atmosphere necessary to create a feeling of 'creepiness' that builds up steadily throughout the story.
- ❖ Character sketches of Jayanto, Shankar ; compare and contrast Jayanto and Shankar
- ❖ Theme of Supernaturalism ; Role of Memory
- ❖ Use of Imagery, Foreshadowing and suspense.

2. Quality :

- ❖ Aptness of the title / Admiration of the quality of the artists and their art, i.e. , the Gessler Brothers and their art of making quality shoes.
- ❖ Character sketch of Mr. Gessler/ Younger Gessler ; The Narrator
- ❖ Theme: Woes of traditional Artisans in the Industrialised world./ Hardships faced by the traditional artists in the backdrop of the Industrial Revolution England in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.
- ❖ Use of imagery and contrast in the story.

3. The Story of an Hour :

- ❖ Significance of the title.
- ❖ Importance of the setting
- ❖ Character sketch of Louise Mallard
- ❖ Theme of Marriage/ Role of women in marriage
- ❖ Use of imagery, contrast and irony

4. The Singing Lesson :

- ❖ Aptness of the title/ Role of music/ music lessons reflecting the mood of the protagonist.
- ❖ Importance of setting
- ❖ Character sketches of Miss Meadows, Basil
- ❖ Themes of Despair ,
- ❖ Symbolism and Imagery

5. B. Wordsworth :

- ❖ Title / Character sketch of B. Wordsworth
- ❖ Importance of setting
- ❖ Themes of Friendship, Identity Crisis, Failure and disillusionment, Love of Nature, Escapism

**Reverie:**

1. The Darkling Thrush :

- ❖ Theme of Nature/ Portrayal or depiction of a bleak picture of nature and the gloom is emphasised far more than the joy
- ❖ Theme of desolation and gloom
- ❖ Theme of Search for meaning /the speaker's despair in the poem
- ❖ As an elegy
- ❖ Imagery, contrast
- ❖ Aptness of the Title

2. Birches :

- ❖ Theme of imagination versus real world
- ❖ Theme of Nature
- ❖ Themes of Truth versus Fancy, Man versus Natural world
- ❖ The need for limits/ It is the real world that provides the limits and makes his poetry possible
- ❖ Symbolism
- ❖ Title of the poem

3. The Dolphins :

- ❖ Theme of enslavement/Lack of freedom
- ❖ Theme of human greed and cruelty/ Through the viewpoint of a dolphin, the poem reveals the sufferings and sadness in their hopeless life.
- ❖ Themes of Entrapment, Oppression and abuse of wildlife, human domination and control, pain of isolation and nostalgia
- ❖ As a dramatic monologue
- ❖ Play of contrast
- ❖ As a critique of speciesism/ as plea to give animals their natural rights and stop classifying them as inferior to humans.

4. John Brown :

- ❖ Theme of fatality of war ; Vain glory in war/ As an anti-War poem
- ❖ Romanticising of War
- ❖ Concepts of The Good -old fashioned war; Maternal pride / Role of the mother
- ❖ Aptness of the Title
- ❖ Use of Irony/ The poem begins with John Brown's mother's happiness but ends in a shock

5. Dover Beach :

- ❖ Theme of loss of faith in god and religion
- ❖ Depiction of the comforting power of love in a world devoid of faith

- ❖ As a dramatic monologue
- ❖ Use of visual and auditory imagery
- ❖ Use of Allusion
- ❖ Darwin's theory of evolution and the Victorian crisis of faith
- ❖ Use of Irony/ Appearance versus Reality