FORM TP 2287

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
ENGLISH A
Paper 02 - General Proficiency
2 1/2 hours

Candidates are allowed 10 minutes to read through the paper. This 10-minute period is in addition to the 2 1/2 hours allowed for the examination.

Candidates may write during the time allowed for reading the paper.
Candidates MUST answer questions from ALL FOUR sections of this paper: Section ONE; ALL of Section TWO; ONE from Section THREE; and ONE from Section FOUR.

SECTION ONE

(Suggested time: 35 minutes)

You MUST answer the question in this section.

1. Summarise what the writer says about the Union in not more than 110 words.

Sometimes when social history is recorded it is often distorted to suit not its historical truth but present day circumstances. However, there is no need for this fear when accounting for the Union. The truth is, as an organization it has remained true to its founding principles. Uppermost in the minds of its founders were principles that still live today in the hearts of all its members.

The seventies was in fact a period of change, a period of revolt against the old order, a period when the entire society questioned itself. A mood of militancy pervaded the working class and bank workers were not left out. The 1970's (even in the 1960’s the militancy of the youth and workers was manifested in a number of ways) were exciting times to say the least. The University was alive with debate, discussions and ideas. Political parties were formed and they created powerful stirrings within society. The social crisis, the demand for change of the old status quo, the international issues, all had their influences. It was in this period that the Union was born.

Today, the Union represents many workers in over sixty companies including professional employees at prestigious financial institutions. We are now the recognised representatives for workers in the financial sector as well as in research organisations. In addition the union provides consultancy services to many persons who need such services. It was truly the experience of success, with indigenous organisation, that has now become an institution.

Adapted from Newsday Historical Digest.

(25 marks)
SECTION TWO
(Suggested time: 40 minutes)
Answer ALL the questions in this section.

2. Read the extract below and then answer all the questions that follow.

I had long dreams. The nightmare began the moment I closed my eyes: A pretty lady with soft, wavy, black hair braided and hanging to her waist, stepped out of the shadows and whispered to me, ‘You will not forget this day easily, Phyllisia. You will not.’

‘I shall. I shall.’ Words leaped from my throat but could not pass through my open mouth. My teeth had grown to form bars. Words beat against my teeth, like birds protesting their cage; none could escape.

Laughing, she ran through the forest, passing through trees, teasing, repeating: ‘No, no, you will not forget . . .’

Twisting and turning, clawing at my jaw with hands that I could not see - because I was sleeping - shouting with words that I could not form, my anger against my deformity changed swiftly to mortal terror. The lady was approaching a cliff and still no words escaped with which I could warn her. I knew if she fell into the roaring water, she would be torn into a million pieces by jagged rocks submerged just below.

But I was sleeping, mute, imprisoned with my caged words, gazed through the bars of my teeth. I pulled and pounded on them as she moved nearer, nearer to the cliff’s edge.

David Higham Associates for “The Friends” by Rosa Gay

(a) What word in the first line shows the fearfulness of the incident being related? (1 mark)

(b) What impression is the writer trying to convey by using the phrase “stepped out of the shadows and whispered to me” (lines 2 - 3)? (2 marks)

(c) What is the writer trying to suggest about Phyllisia’s character when she uses the repetition “I shall. I shall.” (line 4)? (2 marks)

(d) Why are the birds “protesting the cage” (lines 5 - 6)? (2 marks)

(e) To whom or to what do the following words refer
(a) ‘none’ (line 6) (1 mark)
(b) ‘them’ (line 15) (1 mark)

(f) The writer converts Phyllisia’s mouth into a cage. Give two phrases from the passage which illustrate this. (2 marks)

(g) Quote two phrases which show how the writer gives human characteristics to anger (line 10). (2 marks)
3. Read the extract below and then answer all the questions that follow.

Millions of dollars are going down the drain every year on stress electrocardiograms for business executives. Annual chest x-rays are routine, even though they provide no benefits and are probably increasing the incidence of cancer. Fat, sedentary diabetics are spending their money on blood sugar tests, when paying gym fees would make more sense. And of course, everybody is anxiously checking their cholesterol to see if it is high, and then rushing out to buy statins if it is.

None of this is going to make any difference to the health of the people of the Caribbean, but powerful interests are involved. Hospitals cater to thousands of executives doing annual medical check-ups. No executive in his right mind would spend thousands of dollars on a procedure that brings no obvious corporate benefits, but then health has never been a matter of logic. People want reassurance that they are not about to die, rather than programmes that will make them healthier and more productive.

This is not to say that testing is unnecessary. The problem is the reason for the tests. Every individual should know his or her cholesterol level, but only because such knowledge is one aspect of the assumption of personal responsibility for overall health.

Checking one’s cholesterol level without looking after one’s health is virtually useless.

Passage from Healthbeat p. 76.

(a) What is the meaning of the phrase “going down the drain” (line 1)? (1 mark)

(b) How does the writer feel about the practice of having annual chest x-rays? (2 marks)

(c) What does the phrase “but powerful interests are involved” suggest to the reader about the possibility of change? (2 marks)

(d) What “reason” does the writer give for “knowing” one’s cholesterol level? (1 mark)

(e) What evidence does the writer provide to support the view that “health has never been a matter of logic”? (2 marks)

(f) What does the phrase “paying gym fees would make more sense” suggest about “fat diabetic people”? (2 marks)

(g) Why does the writer use the phrase “in his right mind” (line 9)? (2 marks)

Total 12 marks
SECTION THREE
(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

Answer ONE question.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 400 to 450 words in length.

You MUST write in Standard English. Dialect may be used only in conversation.

4.

Write a story based on the scene above. (25 marks)

5. “You really can’t tell a book by its cover. Adison turned out to be a real friend.”
Write a story that ends with these words. (25 marks)

6. “That is why you should never count your chickens before they hatch.”
Write a story that ends with the statement above. (25 marks)
SECTION FOUR
(Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Answer ONE question.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 250 to 300 words in length.

You MUST write in Standard English.

7. "The school teacher is being asked to be teacher, counsellor, financial sponsor and parent to many children in primary schools."

Which of these roles should a teacher be expected to perform? Give reasons for your position. (25 marks)

8. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper expressing your views on the following point of view.

"Dreamers are no help to a country – what we need is practical people who can do things or get things done." (25 marks)

END OF TEST