READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. This paper consists of THREE questions.
2. Answer ALL questions.
4. Each question is worth 20 marks.
5. You are advised to spend some time to read through the paper and plan your answers.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS PAPER.

SECTION A – DRAMA

1. Read the following extract carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

NORA: (pensive for a moment, then tossing her head). Oh, really! Trying to
frighten me! I'm not so silly as all that. (Begins gathering up the children's
clothes, but soon stops.) But—? No, but that's impossible! I did it out of
love.

5 THE CHILDREN: (in the doorway; left). Mama, that strange man's gone out the door.

NORA: Yes, yes, I know it. But don't tell anyone about the strange man. Do you
hear? Not even Papa!

THE CHILDREN: No, Mama. But now will you play again?

NORA: No, not now.

10 THE CHILDREN: Oh, but Mama, you promised.

NORA: Yes, but I can't now. Go inside; I have too much to do. Go in, go in, my
sweet darlings. (She herds them gently back in the room and shuts the
door after them. Settling on the sofa, she takes up a piece of embroidery
and makes some stitches, but soon stops abruptly.) No! (Threw the work
aside, rises, goes to the hall door and calls out.) Helene! Let me have
the tree in here. (Goes to the table, left, opens the table drawer, and stops
again.) No, but that's utterly impossible!

MAID: (with the Christmas tree). Where should I put it, ma'am?

NORA: There. The middle of the floor.

20 MAID: Should I bring anything else?

NORA: No, thanks. I have what I need.

(The MAID, who has set the tree down, goes out.)

NORA: (absorbed in trimming the tree). Candles here—and flowers here. That
terrible creature! Talk, talk, talk! There's nothing to it at all. The tree's
going to be lovely. I'll do anything to please you, my husband. I'll sing
for you, dance for you—

(HELMER comes in from the hall, with a sheaf of papers under his arm.)

NORA: Oh! You're back so soon?
HELMER: Yes. Has anyone been here?

NORA: Here? No.

HELMER: That's odd. I saw Krogstad leaving the front door.

NORA: So? Oh yes, that's true. Krogstad was here a moment.

1 Helmer is Nora's husband

Adapted from Henrik Ibsen, "A Doll House".
In Four Major Plays, Volume 1, Signet Classics, 1992, pp. 67–68.

(a) What is Nora’s state of mind in lines 1–4? Support your answer with ONE stage direction and ONE other piece of evidence. (3 marks)

(b) Explain the dramatic function of the children in this extract. (3 marks)

(c) Comment on the effectiveness of the Christmas tree as a prop. (2 marks)

(d) What impression of Nora is created in lines 23–26? Support your answer with evidence from the extract. (3 marks)

(e) State ONE contradiction shown in Nora’s character in this episode. Provide TWO examples to support your answer. (4 marks)

(f) Explain ONE dramatic function of Helmer’s entrance. (2 marks)

(g) If you were Nora, how would you want the audience to react to you? Use evidence from the extract to support your answer. (3 marks)

Total 20 marks
SECTION B – POETRY

2. Read the following poem carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

As I Grew Older

It was a long time ago,
I have almost forgotten my dream.
But it was there then,
In front of me,
5 Bright like a sun--
My dream.
And then the wall rose,
Rose slowly,
Slowly,
Between me and my dream.
Rose until it touched the sky--
The wall.
Shadow.
I am black.
10 I lie down in the shadow.
No longer the light of my dream before me,
Above me.
Only the thick wall.
Only the shadow.
20 My hands!
My dark hands!
Break through the wall!
Find my dream!
Help me to shatter this darkness,
To smash this night,
To break this shadow
Into a thousand lights of sun,
Into a thousand whirling dreams
Of sun!

Langston Hughes :http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/as-i-grew-older/

(a) Identify ONE phrase from lines 1–6 that captures the main idea of the poem. (1 mark)

(b) Identify the literary device used in line 5 and comment on its effectiveness. (3 marks)

(c) What effect is created by the repetition of the word “rose” in lines 7, 8 and 11? (3 marks)
(d) (i) Identify the tone of the speaker in lines 1–12 and lines 20–29.

(ii) Comment on the appropriateness of the change in tone identified in (i) above. (4 marks)

(e) (i) What is suggested by the use of the words “shadow”, “wall” and “night”?

(ii) How are the suggestions created by the words in (e) (i) above opposed to those created by the use of the words “dream”, “sun”, and “light”? (4 marks)

(f) Explain the meaning of the line “Help me to shatter this darkness” (line 24). (2 marks)

(g) How appropriate is the title of this poem? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Total 20 marks
SECTION C – PROSE FICTION

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish. In the first forty days a boy had been with him. But after forty days without a fish the boy’s parents had told him that the old man was now definitely and finally sulky, which is the worst form of unlucky, and the boy had gone at their orders in another boat which caught three good fish the first week. It made the boy sad to see the old man come in each day with his skiff empty and he always went down to help him carry either the coiled lines or the gaff and harpoon and the sail that was furled around the mast. The sail was patched with flour sacks and, furled, it looked like the flag of permanent defeat.

The old man was thin and gaunt with deep wrinkles in the back of his neck. The brown blotches of the benevolent skin cancer the sun brings from its reflection on the tropic sea were on his cheeks. The blotches ran well down the sides of his face and his hands had the deep-creased scars from handling heavy fish on the cords. But none of these scars were fresh. They were as old as erosions in a fishless desert.

Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated.


(a) Outline what the passage is about. (3 marks)

(b) What mood is created in the first paragraph? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. (3 marks)

(c) What TWO aspects of the boy’s character are revealed in the first paragraph? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. (4 marks)

(d) (i) Identify the figure of speech in lines 12–13, “old as erosions in a fishless desert”.

(ii) Comment on the effectiveness of the figure of speech identified in (i) above. (4 marks)

(e) What effect is created by the writer’s detailed description of the old man in paragraph 2? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

(f) Explain why the reader might find the impression created in the final paragraph unexpected. (3 marks)

END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.

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