

**Motithang Higher Secondary School**  
**Midterm Examinations 2017**  
**English Paper II**  
**(Reading and Literature)**  
**Three hours and a quarter**

(The first fifteen minutes of the examination are for reading the paper only.  
Candidates must NOT start writing during this time.)

**Instructions:**

1. This paper has four sections. Section A for Short Stories, Section B for Essay, Section C for Poetry and Section D for Drama.
2. In each section, there are two sets of questions: Set I and Set II. Set I comprises of Question nos. 1a and 1b and Set II corresponds to Question no. 2 across all sections.
3. You are required to answer four sets of questions in all, one set from each section. Your choice must include one Set II question (question no.2) from any section.
4. The choices offered are between the sets and not among the questions within the sets.
5. The intended marks for each question is given in brackets.
6. You are reminded to mention the section, question set number and question numbers before writing your response.
7. You should begin each answer on a fresh page.
8. No marks will be awarded for any extra questions attempted.

**Section A: Short Stories**

Direction: From the two sets of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet. Answer the questions in this section with reference to the story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber.

Set I

Question 1a. (1x5)

Direction: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct answer or response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

1. From whose point of view is the story told?
  - a) Mrs. Mitty
  - b) Walter Mitty
  - c) Dr. Pritchard-Mitford
  - d) Parking lot attendant.
2. How does Mitty feel about his life?
  - a) content
  - b) happy
  - c) angry
  - d) dissatisfied

3. Mitty's defense attorney tells the judge that his client could not have committed the crime because
  - a) he was driving Mrs. Mitty
  - b) his arm was in a sling
  - c) he shoots with his left hand
  - d) he does not own a gun.
4. Who laughs at Walter Mitty when he says 'puppy biscuits'?
  - a) Mrs. Mitty
  - b) The traffic police
  - c) Parking lot attendant
  - d) Woman on the street.
5. The point of view used in the story is
  - a) first person narrative
  - b) second person narrative
  - c) third person limited
  - d) third person omniscient

Question 1b.

(20)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheet and answer them briefly.

1. Is the story 'The secret life of Walter Mitty' ultimately a funny or tragic story? Support your answer with two reasons. (5)
2. How does Mrs. Mitty treat Mr. Mitty? Is her treatment of Mitty justified? Give two examples from the text to support your answer. (5)
3. If you were Mitty's doctor, how would you treat his condition so that he does not have to resort to daydreaming to escape from reality. Mention three things that you would do as his doctor. (5)
4. What are two incidents that reveal how other members of the society treat Mitty that convey their attitudes toward him? (5)

Set II

Question 2.

(25)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them accordingly.

1. Draw a comparison between Mitty in real life and Mitty in the fantasies by providing examples from the text to support your answer. (10)
2. Bring out the commonality in Mitty's fantasies by briefly mentioning the five fantasies that he has in the story. (15)

### Section B: Essay

Charms of the Quiet Child by Dr. Oz

Most parents want their children to be assertive, bold and brave, to take on challenges without fear of people or of failure. Some kids do just that, and when they do, the grownups swoon. This is how Presidents, movie stars and Olympic medalists start out,

isn't it? Who wouldn't want a golden child? The problem, of course, is that if boldness is golden, reticence must be silver or bronze--or tin. Introverted children are everywhere--you may be raising one--yet too often they wind up without cheerleaders.

So for starters, let's remember that introversion, in most cases, is good. The accomplishments of deep thinkers, great poets, world-changing scientists stack up quite nicely against those of Oscar winners and Olympians, even if there's not the same temperamental sizzle to go along with them. Jonas Salk and Marie Curie did not spend a lot of time in the club scene. Neil Armstrong is no one's idea of a glad-hander. But the fact is, they, like thousands of history's other greats, might never have achieved the things they did without their quiet focus.

The key for parents raising introverted children is first and most important to accept that vast personality differences exist among all kids, even when they grow up under the same roof with the same parents. My four children are incredibly different, as is the case with my siblings and me. But just because our kids present entirely different faces to us doesn't mean they should get entirely different responses. It may be easier to react with enthusiasm and applause (often literally) to a child who is an athlete or a dancer than to one whose gifts lie in math and science. And it's certainly easier to be charmed by your funnier, more charismatic kids than by your quieter, more taciturn ones. But rewarding your children's diverse skills and styles with equal support is important all the same.

Genuine maladaptive shyness, of course, is not at all the same as simple, healthy introversion--and it has very different causes and consequences. Left unaddressed, extreme shyness can hinder language and other kinds of cognitive development. It may also lead to depression, low self-esteem and simple loneliness. While healthy introversion is likely innate, shyness can be heavily influenced by environment. Dynamics in the home that can drive a child inward include abuse, trauma and alcoholism. Birth order, a bullying older sibling and flagrant favoritism by parents can contribute as well.

There may be physical causes of shyness too. In my specialty, I sometimes see heart ailments that make a child more introverted. If blood isn't circulating properly, the brain and other organs don't get enough oxygen for engagement in social interactions. Speech and hearing need to be assessed as well; if you can't hear or communicate properly, you can hardly engage with the people around you easily or well. A pediatric neurologist can determine if a child's shyness is actually a condition lying on the autism spectrum, and a psychologist can look for anxiety conditions such as social phobia and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Treatments for anxiety conditions in particular can be very straightforward, including exposure to feared situations (immersion), either through real experiences or imagined desensitization. Group therapy may be especially valuable for kids whose issue involves learning to be comfortable with others. In truly stubborn cases, some anti-anxiety

medications are approved for pediatric use, but they should be reserved for the kids who are most at risk.

The best wisdom I can offer I learned on the job--not as a doctor but as a parent. As dangerous as the consequences of shyness can be for development, the dangers of parents' imposing some ideal vision of childhood behavior on their kids are more insidious. All children have their own lens through which they view the world. If that lens refracts things in the softer, quieter focus of the introvert, parents must accept that. The occasional social nudge is fine for a withdrawn or timid child. But a full, unreserved embrace is better still.

Set I

Question 1a.

(1x5)

Direction: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct answer or response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

1. The main message that Dr. Oz sends out in his article is
  - a) getting shy children treated.
  - b) Problems shy children may undergo if left untreated.
  - c) Different children have different personalities and parents need to accept that.
  - d) How much wisdom he has gained not as a doctor but as a parent.
2. What does the second paragraph say about introverts?
  - a) They can be Oscar winners and Olympians.
  - b) They are temperamental people.
  - c) They love to socialize by going clubbing.
  - d) They need time alone to focus.
3. Which one of the following is NOT a treatment for anxiety?
  - a) Protect the child from situations that cause anxiety.
  - b) Place the child in situations that cause anxiety.
  - c) Medicate the child with antianxiety pills.
  - d) Make them interact with other people.
4. Healthy introversion is
  - a) unnatural
  - b) learned
  - c) inborn
  - d) extrinsic
5. What is the most harmful thing that a parent can do to a shy child?
  - a) leaving their shyness untreated.
  - b) Taking them for group therapy.
  - c) Not checking their speech and hearing.
  - d) Imposing their ideal vision of child behaviour on the child.

Question 1b.

(20)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them briefly.

1. What is the dominant tone used by the writer, is it of a doctor or of a parent? Support your answer with two evidence from the article. (5)
2. In your opinion, what is the difference between a shy child and an introverted one? (5)
3. Are you an extrovert, an introvert or a shy person? Give four reasons to support your answer. (5)
4. What are the five causes (that Dr. Oz mentions) in the environment that can lead to a child's shyness? (5)

Set II

Question 2.

(25)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them accordingly.

1. Which two parts of the essay resonated strongly with you and another two parts that you disagreed with? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
2. In a society that values extroversion over introversion, and also in class rooms where the talkative and outgoing students receive more attention and accolades from the teachers; briefly in not more than 150 words, write about how the introverted student can contribute as much or even more in some cases as the extroverted student. (15)

### Section C: Poetry

Direction: Read the poem given below carefully. From the two sets of questions on this poem, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet.

All the world's a stage by William Shakespeare *from As You Like It*

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;  
And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad

Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,  
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,  
In fair round belly with good capon lin'd,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

Set I

Question 1a.

(1x5)

Direction: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct answer or response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

1. In the second stage of life, man
  - a) mewes and pukes.
  - b) Goes to school unwillingly.
  - c) Cries in his nurse's lap.
  - d) Sings and plays.
2. In the fifth stage of life, man is described as
  - a) the lover
  - b) the soldier
  - c) the judge
  - d) a senile man.
3. "creeping like a snail" is an example of
  - a) metaphor
  - b) alliteration
  - c) personification
  - d) simile.
4. The seven roles that a man plays correspond to his
  - a) chronological age in life
  - b) mental age in life
  - c) desires that he has in life
  - d) idea of a perfect life.

5. Why is man's life called 'strange eventful history'?
- Due to uncertainty.
  - Due to a lot of variety.
  - Due to a lot of strange happenings.
  - It's like a story.

Question 1b.

(20)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them briefly.

- Which stage of human life do you consider the best? Give two reasons for your answer. (5)
- What is Shakespeare's concept of life? (5)
- Bring out the similarities in the two stages of life mentioned by the poet? (5)
- Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth.  
Who is referred to here? What are the features of this stage? (5)

Set II

Question 2.

(25)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them accordingly.

- What message does Shakespeare wish to convey in this speech? (10)
- Bring out the parallelism that the poet has drawn between the stage and the world. (15)

#### Section D: Drama

Direction: From the two sets of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet.

Set I

Question 1a.

(1x5)

Direction: Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct answer or response that best fits the given question and write it in your answer sheet.

- The writer of the play 'Episode in the life of an Author' is
  - Monsieur Jacques
  - Monsieur Gustave
  - Monsieur Molier
  - Monsieur Jean Anoiulh.
- If you were a dramatist, your primary function would be to
  - teach the public
  - impress the public
  - entertain the public
  - create sensations for the public.

3. The absurdity of Gontran's situation is that
  - a) he is weeping like a child.
  - b) He wants a gun from the author.
  - c) He is in love with Lea.
  - d) He thinks Lucienne has been deceiving him ever since he left her.
4. At the end of the play, Ardele
  - a) leaves her husband
  - b) chases her husband
  - c) shoots her husband
  - d) stays with her husband
5. Leon is the name of
  - a) the author
  - b) the maid
  - c) the cat who is meowing hoarsely
  - d) the ex husband of Madame Pripon-Minet

Question 1b.

(20)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them briefly.

1. List five events at the climax of the play with the collapse of the ceiling. (5)
2. How is Ardele an absurd character? Give two examples from the play to support your answer. (5)
3. Define Satire. Discuss any two satirical situations in the play. (5)
4. 'Man is alone, left to himself with his ridiculous freedom, and no one to call out to him in the desert.' Explain how freedom is ridiculous with two relevant examples from the play. (5)

Set II

Question 2.

(25)

Direction: Read the following questions carefully. Copy the number of the questions onto your answer sheets and answer them accordingly.

1. Discuss any four symbols and their significance. (10)
2. 'Episode in the life of an author' is a farce. Explain five features of this genre with examples from the play. (15)