

1960

English Language O Level.

2.5 hours

Answer Questions ONE and TWO and in addition EITHER the whole of Question THREE OR TWO of the sections A, B, C, D in Question Three and the whole of Question four.

Write legibly and pay great attention to spelling and punctuation. Candidates are recommended to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1 and not more than 60 minutes on Question 2.

QUESTION ONE

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions on it:

The onion is, has been through many ages, a universal vegetable. Nine tons of gold spent on onions for the sustenance of the Egyptian builders of the pyramids. Had the builders not been fortified with onions, those geometrical triumphs of ancient architecture might never have existed. The Pharaohs for whom they were built are but half-remembered ghosts, legendary rather than historical figures, but the onion still flourishes strongly, notable and noticeable in the service of mankind.

From infancy the onion puts himself out to oblige. As a seed he will grow on heavy soil, and though he needs food, a bed- manured for a previous crop will do even on others' leavings he gives unsurpassed returns. He is not finicky about the weather and does not mind heat or cold, wet or drought. As he approaches maturity he is still thoughtful for others. We need not sit up all night with a finger on his pulse to catch him at the right moment; he sits on top of the soil to show us how big he is, and when ready for use he dries off, he dries off his green top as a signal.

Carrots have corrugated skins; potatoes have holes and lumps and eyes, apples have cores and maggots - all to harass the cook. Nothing mars the smooth rotundity of the ripe onion in his glossy brown coat as easily removed as a dressing gown; and it would be a brave maggot that would eat its way into unadulterated onion. In the centre we find no waste inedible core, no adamant stone, no bitter kernel, but the quintessence of this best of vegetables.

(a) In about FIFTY OF YOUR OWN WORDS without introducing figures of speech or illustrations, state what advantages the onion has as a vegetable.

(b) What is implied by describing the Pharaohs as "half-remembered ghosts"?

(c) Explain the differences between a legendary and an historical figure.

(d) Give in a few words the meaning of each of the following as used in the passage:

(i) sustenance (ii) unsurpassed (iii) finicky (iv) corrugated (v) inedible (vi) adamant

(e) In the second paragraph the onion is personified throughout. Give from that paragraph three ways in which it is made to resemble a human being.

(f) Quote and explain two humorous allusions to the smell of the onion, one from the first paragraph and one from the third.

QUESTION TWO

Write an essay of TWO to THREE pages on ONE of the following;

1. Noise
2. Modern Advertising methods
3. Our Village.
4. The Luxuries of today are the Necessities of tomorrow.
5. Emigration
6. Problems of Road Transport

QUESTION THREE

A (I) Use the clause "when the train arrived" in three separate sentences as indicated below.

- (a) as a Noun clause, object of a verb,
- (b) as an Adverbial clause of time,
- (c) as a Noun clause, subject of verb.

(II) For each of the following write THREE sentences, each introducing the word functioning as a different part of speech. The parts of speech to be used are indicated after each word, and are to be used in the order given.

AFTER, as preposition, adverb and conjunction.

OUTSIDE, as adjective, adverb and preposition.

EVEN, as verb, adjective and adverb.

B Use each of the following words or phrases in a sentence (two separate sentences for each pair) so as to bring out the difference in meaning between the first word and the second word or phrase in each pair:

- (I) everyone, every one,
- (II) spoonful, spoon full,
- (III) industrious, industrial,
- (IV) aggravate, irritate,
- (V) contemptuous, contemptible,
- (VI) loquacious, eloquent

C (a) Choose THREE of the following words and for each one you choose write TWO sentences. The first sentence must include the word used literally; the second must include the word used figuratively or metaphorically. Each sentence must consist of at least 8 words.

- (I) wedge (II) shoulder (III) rock (IV) fire (V) anchor

(b) Use in sentences antonyms of SIX of the following words:

destroy, analysis, oblique, strictness, ample, industrious, indifference, meagre.

D Compose a short passage showing the correct use of the following punctuation marks: double and single inverted commas; hyphen; dash; semi-colon; question mark.

QUESTION FOUR

Read following poem carefully and then answer the questions on it.

Men all, and birds, and creeping beasts,
When the dark of night is deep,
From the moving wonder of their lives
Commit themselves to sleep.

Without a thought, or fear, they shut
The narrow gate of sense;
Headless and quiet in slumber turn
Their strength to impotence.

The transient strangeness of the earth
Their spirits no more to see:
Within a silent gloom withdrawn,
They slumber in secrecy.

Two worlds they have: a globe forgot
Wheeling from dark to light;
And all the enchanted realm of dream
That burgeons out of night.

- a) State IN YOUR OWN WORDS what, according to the poet, happens (I) to the body, (II) to the mind, when one sleeps.
- b) What are the two worlds referred to in line 13?
- c) Give a word or short phrase equivalent in meaning to each of the following as used in the poem: (I) commit, (II) impotence (III) transient.
- d) Explain fully the meaning of "Wheeling from dark to light"
- e) Give (I) the one-word grammatical subject of "turn" (line 7)

- (II) the one-word grammatical object of "see" (line 10).
f) Quote and explain any ONE metaphor used in the poem.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions on it.

One thinks normally of the pigeon as not too sagacious a bird. In Trafalgar Square, although he is bold and voracious, he is also frightened far too easily, for he ought to have learned that he is safe. Even in Venice he fails (although this may be his concession to routine) to hear without all the machinery of alarm the noonday gun which he and his forebears have been securely accustomed to for many, many years. So little do we think of the pigeon's wisdom that anybody who falls a victim to the wiles of the confidence-trickster or other obvious swindler is given his name. "Another pigeon, we say, 'has been plucked."

Yet the astounding performances of homers prove what the pigeon can do on the grand scale and trained troupes of pigeons in the music halls go through spectacular evolutions with precision and docility, and an apparent enjoyment which does not surprise me, for I have almost daily evidence of a pigeon's sense of fun. From my window I have a view of a fountain and a little tree close by. Pigeons are continually bathing in the basin or preening their feathers round its rim. The only other regular frequenters of the courtyard (beyond such negligible persons as the owners) are two kittens animated by one purpose, which is to pursue, destroy and consume a pigeon. To this end they lie along the branches of the little tree, endeavouring to fascinate the birds with their bright eyes, or they creep stealthily over the gravel, so diminishing their trifling height as to seem to be sinking into the hard ground, advancing inch by inch upon their prey, hoping to be unobserved. This does not cause that prey a moment's anxiety, for they continue their occupation undisturbed until the kittens are as near as is desirable, and then, with a chuckle, move quickly out of range. I think that the birds enjoy this repeated comedy to the full.

- (a) Using not more than 70 of YOUR OWN WORDS give (i) the evidence that the author offers of the apparent stupidity of pigeons, and (ii) the evidence of their intelligence. State the number words you have used.
- (b) Give the meaning as used in the passage of each of SIX of the following?
- (i) sagacious
 - (ii) voracious
 - (iii) forebears
 - (iv) securely
 - (v) obvious
 - (vi) docility
 - (vii) continually
 - (viii) frequenters
- (c) Explain fully the meaning as used in the passage of each of FIVE of the following:
(i) concession to routine; (ii) confidence-trickster; (iii) spectacular evolutions; (iv) preening their feathers; (v) animated by one purpose; (vi) to this end; (vii) out of range.
- d) To whom do the owners of the courtyard seem "negligible"? Say why.
- e) Show how the author contrasts the attitude of the kittens to the pigeons and that of the pigeons to the kittens.