

## **G.C.E (A/L) ENGLISH - EXAMINATION SYLLABUS**

**Objectives:** During the two years the students should be taught to respond to language sensitively. Candidates should be able to write smoothly, correctly and intelligibly, and they should be taught economy of expression, logical thinking and aesthetic expression through language.

**Content :** There will be two papers of three hours each.  
Paper I will be based on the prescribed texts.  
Paper II will be on production and response to different registers comprising essay, précis ,and unseens.

**Paper I :** Candidates will be expected to

- 1) show close knowledge of and familiarity with the texts of their choice ,
- 2) be able to see relationships between texts,
- 3) discern similarity and dissimilarity of treatment of themes such as love, social pressures, etc,
- 4) respond to questions on technique appropriate to the genre e.g. on plot, character, structure, style, rhythm, imagery etc.
- 5) discuss issues arising from the content ,

Credit will be given for evidence of wide reading outside the texts, and of awareness of literature outside the texts.

### **Texts**

Candidates are required to show knowledge of two novels, two plays, all the short stories and all the poems, making six texts in all.

## **Drama**

Shakespeare:	The Merchant of Venice Macbeth
Chekhov:	The Cherry Orchard
Brecht	The Caucasian Chalk Circle
Macintyre	The Education of Miss Asia

## **Novels**

Jane Austen	Pride and prejudice
Charles Dickens	The Tale of Two Cities
R.K Narayan	The English Teacher
Punyakante Wijenaike	The Waiting Earth

## **Short Stories (5)**

James Joyce	Araby
Sherwood Anderson	Unlighted Lamps
Amrita Pritam	The Stench of Kerosene
Kate Walker	Love Letters
Gunadasa Amarasekera	Disonchinahamy

## **Poetry (24)**

Anonymous	The Demon Lover
Tr.Arthur Waley	Escorting Candidates to the Examination Hall
Chaucer	
Mod. Neville Coghill	Death and the Three Rioters
Shakespeare	Shall I Compare Three to a Summer's Day

Donne	Song: Sweetest Love I Do not Go
Blake	London
Wordsworth	I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud
Keats	To Autumn
Hopkins	Binsley Poplars
Yeats	A Prayer for My Daughter
Frost	Out, Out
Owen	Anthem for Doomed youth
Auden	The Unknown Citizen

Hughes	Hawk Roosting
Okara	Piano and Drums
Patrick Fernando	The Fisherman Mourned by His Wife
	Life and Death of a Hawk
Yasmine Gooneratne	The Peace Game
Wikkramasinha	The Cobra
	From the Life of the Folk Poet Ysinno
Anne Ranasinghe	Secretariat
	Vivere in Pace
Jean Arasanayagam	Ruined Gropuram
Michael Jakson	Heal the World

## **Questions**

**Part A.** Will have 4 questions. There will be passages for comment from the drama, fiction and the poetry requiring short answers showing the candidate's ability to respond personally to the issues therein. Candidates will be able to answer these questions on the texts of their choice and all the poetry prescribed. ( 10 x 4 = marks)

## **Part B.**

Candidates will need to know the texts of their choice closely, and all the short stories and the poetry. Questions will be set on single texts as well, enabling candidates to show their ability to make comparison across the texts. However, knowledge of all the short stories and all the poems will be expected.

## **Paper II**

Candidates will be expected to write correctly, smoothly and coherently.

It will comprise 4 parts, Essay précis and Unseens, both prose and verse.

## **Essay**

This will be marked out of 35. Candidates will be expected to write on ONE of several given topics of a wide range allowing for logical argument and debate, collection of facts, experience of individual opinions and creative writing from personal experience (35 marks)

## **Precis**

This will be marked out of 25. Candidates will be expected to comprehend a passage of reasonable length (550-575) words and express the meaning, the gist, coherently, clearly and economically. (Schools could use editorials in newspapers, magazines relating to definite issues, and articles of similar length on issues of general interest for classroom teaching)  
(25 marks)

## **Unseens**

Two passages, one of prose, which could be fiction or non-fiction and one of poetry will be given. Questions will be set **on the text** and candidates would be required to respond to nuances, connotations, denotations, varied use of language, express appreciation of varied experiences and show ability to perceive human issues and values (20 x 20 = 40marks)