



# ICSE 2025 SPECIMEN

## DRAFT MARKING SCHEME – LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (ENGLISH PAPER 2)

Question 1		[16]
(i)	(c) At the foot of Pompey's statue	
(ii)	(b) Antony	
(iii)	(a) enraged	
(iv)	(a) Lepidus	
(v)	(b) remain where they are	
(vi)	(b) his life had come full circle	
(vii)	(c) 'Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?'	
(viii)	(d) The turtles whine and stare	
(ix)	(b) glide	
(x)	(a) the impact of the death of a loved one on those left behind	
(xi)	(a) the journey of a mite across a sheet of paper	
(xii)	(d) reading magazines	
(xiii)	(a) they were slender	
(xiv)	(b) 2, 4, 1, 3	
(xv)	(c) (1) is the cause for (2).	
(xvi)	(b) dystopian	
Question 2		
(i)	The Capitol/ Senate/ Rome puissant- powerful Metellus Cimber begs the mighty Caesar most humbly to listen to his plea.	[3]
(ii)	Caesar had earlier been warned by the Soothsayer to beware the ides of March. + So, Caesar reminds the Soothsayer that it had already arrived and yet nothing had happened to him. The Soothsayer tells Caesar that though it had come, it had not yet gone.	[3]
(iii)	Trebonius: to take Antony out of the way/ ensure that he would not be near Caesar when the conspirators attacked Caesar. Casca: to be the first to attack Caesar. Popilius Lena speaks to Cassius as they enter the Senate House and addresses him directly, wishing him success in his enterprise that day. This makes Cassius nervous as he thinks that their plot has been discovered.	[3]

(iv)	<p>Artemidorus pleads that Caesar read the scroll that he had just given to him because it concerns him very closely.</p> <p>Caesar responds by saying that whatever concerned him personally would be dealt with last.</p>	[3]
(v)	<p>Personal response: Accept either Julius Caesar or Conspirators</p> <p>Accept any three plausible reasons.</p>	[4]
<b>Question 3</b>		
(i)	<p>Cassius</p> <p>Brutus is angry because he had requested Cassius to send him money, but Cassius had refused to do so.</p>	[3]
(ii)	<p>Hurt / sad / grieved / betrayed.</p> <p>Cassius' defence: he had not refused money— the person who had given Brutus the message had made a mistake / miscommunicated the information sent.</p>	[3]
(iii)	<p>to pay his legions.</p> <p>He could not raise money by vile means— could not force poor unwilling peasants to part with their money by dishonest methods– he would rather turn his heart into gold and his drops of blood into silver coins/ drachmas than do such a thing.</p>	[3]
(iv)	<p>Brutus had accused Lucius Pella of taking bribes from the Sardians — had humiliated and disgraced him.</p> <p>Cassius had written to Brutus pleading on behalf of Lucius Pella/ to excuse him his offences because he knew the man well.</p>	[3]
(v)	<p>Brutus – self-righteous/ highly moral and idealistic / takes the high moral ground + unconscious hypocrisy /double standards — Willing to ask for and use money raised through malpractice by Cassius but will not do it himself</p> <p>The relationship is breaking down/ strained/ differences in personality are clearly evident/ they quarrel / they are incompatible.</p>	[4]
<b>Question 4</b>		
(i)	<p>Photography studio</p> <p>To get his picture taken</p> <p>The photographer took pride in his work – did not like the narrator's looks yet made sure that his photograph had turned out well</p>	[3]



(ii)	A trial/ sample impression of a print before final printing  The narrator could not recognise himself in the photograph because everything had been altered/ It did not look like him/ bore no resemblance to the narrator's face.	[3]
(iii)	Eyes – eyebrows– forehead – hairline –mouth	[3]
(iv)	his ears  Through a process called the Sulphide – he could remove the ears entirely and replace them.	[3]
(v)	The narrator was furious because the photograph had no original facial features/ did not look like his face.  Justified — his patience had been pushed to the extreme — felt offended/ humiliated at the needless intervention — attempt at body shaming — hurt his sense of self-worth/ self-image.	[4]
<b>Question 5</b>		
(i)	Writer  Loved to go out on long walks – in the evening – in the silence – walk on the concrete sidewalk / on grassy patches.  A.D. 2053	[3]
(ii)	Compares his walks through the empty streets — to the shadow of a hawk in mid country.  The roads were as deserted — as the centre of a plain in the Arizona desert — with no house in a thousand miles.  He was as alone in the city — as a hawk in mid country with no habitation or people.	[3]
(iii)	His hard-heeled shoes attracted unwanted attention + he wanted to move quietly and unobserved + dogs on the streets/ dogs barked + people in houses/ lights came on.	[3]
(iv)	A lone car turned the corner + He was caught in its headlights.  He stood motionless / spellbound / fascinated + moved towards it.	[3]
(v)	For walking without a purpose  Personal Response question  Accept EITHER Horror story/ Science fiction.  Accept any TWO plausible reasons	[4]

<b>Question 6</b>		
(i)	He can see + hear what the stranger cannot see or hear + stranger perceives 'what is' (the present) while the narrator perceives all that 'has been' (the past)	[3]
(ii)	Houses where people have lived + died + are revisited by the spirits of those who have passed on a haunted house.	[3]
(iii)	In the doorways + stairs + passageway + halls	[3]
(iv)	The living cannot claim ownership of houses/ lands that they occupy + previous owners and occupants from long ago, now dead, + reach out from the graves to stake a claim.	[3]
(iv)	Traditional – frightening/ vengeful/ malevolent Poet's – comfortable /secure/ benign Mood – comfort + security Accept any ONE plausible reason.	[4]
<b>Question 7</b>		
(i)	lions hunker down + elephants lumber + small things recoil into silence	[3]
(ii)	It is difficult to breathe because the air becomes rarefied and sterile/ one is choked with emotion + we see with hurtful clarity + remember unfulfilled promises with regret.	[3]
(iii)	Disoriented + struggle to manage on our own/ cope with the loss/ emotional void + maddened/ unhinged/ 'reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves'.	[3]
(iv)	(a) small things recoil into silence – shock/ numbness/ stunned (b) kind words/ unsaid — remorse/ regret (c) Be and be/ better. For they existed — optimism / hope / joyful acceptance	[3]
(v)	Tree = a great soul The loss of a loved one is traumatic yet inevitable. The memory and influence of the great soul lingers and will continue to shape and affect our lives positively. It brings hope and healing to be better versions of ourselves.	[4]