FORM TP 2026–011

TEST CODE **01219020**

JANUARY 2026

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE® EXAMINATION

ENGLISH B

Paper 02 – General Proficiency

HYBRID

2 hours 10 minutes

07 JANUARY 2026 (a.m.)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. This paper consists of EIGHT questions, arranged in THREE sections as follows.

   Section A: DRAMA
   Question 1: Shakespeare
   Question 2: Modern Drama

   Section B: POETRY
   Questions 3 and 4

   Section C: PROSE FICTION
   Questions 5 and 6: Novel
   Questions 7 and 8: Short Story

2. Answer THREE questions only, ONE question from EACH section.
3. You MUST write in essay format and develop ALL your responses fully.
4. **All responses MUST be written in the answer booklet provided.**
5. Your responses MUST be written in Standard English.
6. Use ONLY the books from the prescribed list for this examination to answer the questions.
7. You are advised to take some time to read through the paper and plan your answers.
8. It is an offence to share your keycode with any other candidate or to log in with another candidate's details.
9. Any attempt to change the configuration of this machine, connect external devices, connect to external networks or to in any way initiate communication with resources other than the URL provided will result in your disqualification, you being shut out of the system and the cancellation of your entire test.

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For EACH question in this paper 25 marks are allocated for content and 10 marks for structure, development and competence in the mechanics of writing.

SECTION A – DRAMA

Answer ONE question in this section.

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

EITHER

TWELFTH NIGHT — William Shakespeare

1. "The issue of courtship and marriage features prominently in *Twelfth Night*."

Write an essay in which you describe TWO characters who are featured in a situation which involves **either** courtship **or** marriage. For ONE of these instances, you must discuss how ONE character responds to courtship **or** marriage. Finally, you must examine how Shakespeare uses ONE dramatic device to explore the theme of courtship and marriage.

Total 35 marks

OR

ANANSI — Alistaire Campbell

2. "The winner or the leader is not always the one who is the strongest or the fiercest."

Write an essay in which you describe TWO instances in *Anansi* in which the audience is made aware that the winner is not the strongest or the fiercest. For ONE of these instances, you must discuss how the other character(s) respond to this realization. Finally, you must examine how the playwright uses ONE dramatic technique to develop characters.

Total 35 marks

SECTION B – POETRY

Answer ONE question in this section.

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

EITHER

A WORLD OF POETRY FOR CSEC — Mark McWatt and Hazel Simmons-McDonald

3. "'A Lesson for this Sunday' and 'Little Boy Crying' highlight the behaviour of children."

Write an essay in which you focus on the behaviour of children.

For EACH poem, describe the actions of the child OR children. You must also discuss how ONE speaker is affected by the behaviour of the child OR children. Finally, for EACH poem, you must examine ONE device that EACH poet uses to explore the behaviour of children.

Total 35 marks

OR

4. "Our ability to reflect on things or events that occur in our lives is part of what makes life meaningful."

Write an essay in which you focus on the things or events that cause people to reflect.

Choose TWO poems from the prescribed list and, for EACH poem, describe what causes the speaker to reflect on something OR an event. For ONE of the poems, you must also discuss how someone OR something reacts to the speaker. Finally, for EACH poem, you must examine ONE device EACH poet uses to explore the theme of reflection.

Total 35 marks

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SECTION C – PROSE FICTION

Answer ONE question in this section.

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

NOVEL

EITHER

ANIMAL FARM — George Orwell

5. "The betrayal of values is a recurring theme in *Animal Farm*."

Write an essay in which you describe TWO incidents where values are betrayed. For ONE of the incidents described, you must also discuss the effect of that betrayal on others. Finally, you must examine ONE technique the writer uses to explore the theme of betrayal.

Total 35 marks

OR

FOR THE LIFE OF LAETITIA — Merle Hodge

6. "The mother–daughter relationship in *For the Life of Laetitia* enables the daughter to define herself and make decisions."

Write an essay in which you describe TWO mother–daughter relationships. For ONE of the relationships described, you MUST also discuss how the mother influences ONE significant decision her daughter makes. Finally, you must examine the writer's use of characterization to portray family relationships.

Total 35 marks

SHORT STORY

A WORLD OF PROSE FOR CSEC — David Williams and Hazel Simmons-McDonald

OR

7. "The stories 'Berry' and 'Georgia and Them There USA' highlight significant differences in the African American and the Caribbean response to discrimination."

Write an essay in which you focus on the different responses to discrimination portrayed by African Americans and Caribbean immigrants.

For EACH story, describe ONE incident in which an African American or a Caribbean immigrant experiences discrimination. For ONE of the stories, you must also discuss a character's response to discrimination. Finally, for EACH story, you must examine how the writer uses ONE technique to portray discrimination.

Total 35 marks

OR

8. "Rural settings are portrayed as traditional and undeveloped."

Write an essay in which you focus on setting and the effect it has on characters.

Choose TWO relevant short stories from the prescribed list and, for EACH story, describe the rural setting. You must also discuss the effect of the setting on ONE of the characters. Finally, for EACH story, you must examine ONE technique the writer uses to convey the rural setting.

Total 35 marks

END OF TEST

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

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