TEST CODE **01219020**

FORM TP 2005075

MAY/JUNE 2005

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH B

Paper 02 – General Proficiency

45 minutes

18 MAY 2005 (p.m.)

In addition to the 45 minutes allowed for the examination, you are allowed 15 minutes in order to read through the entire paper.

You may write during the 15-minute period.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

Copyright © 2003 Caribbean Examinations Council.
All rights reserved.

Select EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2 and then complete ALL of the tasks related to the given poem or passage.

EITHER

1. Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.

After the first powerful plain manifesto
The black statement of pistons, without more fuss
But gliding like a queen, she leaves the station.
Without bowing and with restrained unconcern
She passes the houses which humbly crowd outside,
The gasworks and at last the heavy page
Of death, printed by gravestones in the cemetery.
Beyond the town there lies the open country
Where, gathering speed, she acquires mystery,
The luminous self-possession of ships on ocean.
It is now she begins to sing – at first quite low
Then loud, and at last with a jazzy madness –
The song of her whistle screaming at curves,
Of deafening tunnels, brakes, innumerable bolts.
And always light, aerial, underneath
Goes the elate meter of her wheels.
Steaming through metal landscape on her lines
She plunges new eras of wild happiness
Where speed throws up strange shapes, broad curves
And parallels clean like the steel of guns.
At last, further than Edinburgh or Rome,
Beyond the crest of the world, she reaches night
Where only a low streamline brightness
Of phosphorous on the tossing hills is white.
Ah, like a comet through flames she moves entranced
Wrapt in her music no bird song, no, nor bough
Breaking with honey buds, shall ever equal.

Stephen Spender, The Express.

(a) What aspect of the train is suggested in the first line of the poem? **(1 mark)**

(b) What is the attitude of the speaker to the train he describes? How do you know? **(2 marks)**

(c) (i) Identify TWO figures of speech in lines 3 – 7. **(2 marks)**

(ii) Discuss the effectiveness of EACH figure of speech identified at (i) above. **(4 marks)**

(d) (i) State what mood is created in lines 5 – 7. **(1 mark)**

(ii) Identify THREE words that help to create that mood. **(3 marks)**

(e) (i) State what is meant by "the heavy page of death" in lines 6 - 7. **(1 mark)**

(ii) Identify the figure of speech being used. **(1 mark)**

(f) Quote TWO phrases that show the grandeur of the train. **(4 marks)**

(g) (i) To which of the senses does the poem mainly appeal? **(1 mark)**

(ii) Give TWO examples of that appeal. **(2 marks)**

(h) Quote TWO phrases that show the joyful exuberance of the train. **(2 marks)**

(i) Find TWO items of evidence in the poem that hint at the destructive potential of the train. **(2 marks)**

(j) In the light of your answer to (i), comment on how convincing you find the last THREE lines of the poem. **(4 marks)**

Total 30 marks

OR

2. Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

'Meena . . . Meena, wake up!' Rahim called, filled with excitement as he entered the room, only to find that Meena was already up. 'You hear, you hear what that man say 'bout my work?'

Meena, just as excited as Rahim, tried to tell him again what she had always known.

'You is the best jeweller in the island, Rahim, only you, you is the only one who can't believe it. It take somebody else to make you believe.'

But Rahim felt an old, old pride welling up in him again. The kind of feeling that emanates from the marrow, the kind of feeling a man is convinced has gone dead and dry in him. It was this feeling that almost drew tears to his eyes, for it was like coming to life again, and he plunged into his trade with the little tools he had, feeling that reward at the end of the day that only loving accomplishment could bring. As he lay in bed those nights rehearsing all the small details of design, the subtleties of wiring and soldering, the new shapes and forms that came cascading through his mind, he felt that he could go on and on, carried along on the wonderful tide of this new hope. No more did he wonder whether there were people in the vast world who paid a casual glance to some fragment of his work. Now he knew that his dreams, all the way down to the little jewel boxes housing some brooch, some pin, were something real and that in these thoughts lay his reward – that fleeting glimpse of our eternity that he had felt whispering at his fingertips. This was so, and the world had not forgotten him. Somewhere someone would say, rotating a piece of his work, 'I wonder who made it . . . I wonder if the jeweller in Trinidad ever thought that his handiwork would come this far.' These things he knew were so, and there was nothing in the world that could change this, nothing that could take this away from him.

In the afternoon . . . Prince Street offered a view of sunset upon the city that was everlastingly beautiful. The sun seemed caught behind the Red House, and long horizontal shafts of light came piercing through the trees of the Square striking the low-lying areas of Rose Hill and Quarry Street, which wound serpentine to the top where there was, as if seated at the mount, a small church looking out at the last rays of each evening's sunset.

Ismith Khan, The Jumbie Bird,
Longman Inc., New York, 1961, p. 186.

(a) What phrase in the passage best explains "again" (line 4)? **(1 mark)**

(b) What is the effect of the word "plunged" (line 10)? **(3 marks)**

(c) Why is Rahim "rehearsing all the small details of design" (lines 11 - 12) in his mind? **(2 marks)**

(d) Identify the figure of speech in "cascading through his mind" (lines 12 - 13), and explain its use in the passage. **(4 marks)**

(e) Explain the meaning of "that fleeting glimpse of our eternity that he had felt whispering at his fingertips" (line 17). **(6 marks)**

(f) Why is the sunset described as "everlastingly beautiful" (line 23)? **(4 marks)**

(g) What are Rahim's main realizations? **(2 marks)**

(h) In no more than 10 lines, state in your own words what this passage is about. **(8 marks)**

Total 30 marks

END OF TEST

The Council has made every effort to trace copyright holders. However, if any has been inadvertently overlooked, or any material has been incorrectly acknowledged, CXC will be pleased to correct this at the earliest opportunity.