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CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION**

ENGLISH B

Paper 01 – General Proficiency

1 hour 45 minutes

11 MAY 2012 (p.m.)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. This paper consists of THREE questions.
2. Answer ALL questions.
3. Begin EACH question on a new page.
4. Each question is worth 20 marks.
5. You are advised to take some time to read through the paper and plan your answers.

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ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS PAPER.

SECTION A – DRAMA

1. Read the following extract carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

Ring twice. Phone is picked up. Left stage, at table spotlight picks up Sargeant Duffy seated in a relaxed position. Just entering beside him is a young man in cap and apron, carrying a large brown paper parcel, delivery boy for a local lunch counter. Phone is ringing.

5 LUNCHROOM ATTENDANT: Here's your lunch, Sarge. They didn't have no jelly doughnuts, so I give you French crullers¹. Okay, Sarge?

DUFFY: French crullers. I got ulcers. Whyn't you make it apple pie? (*Picks up phone, which has rung twice*) Police Department. Precinct 43. Duffy speaking.

LUNCHROOM ATTENDANT: (*Anxiously*) We don't have no apple pie, either, Sarge –

10 MRS STEVENSON: Police Department? Oh. This is Mrs Stevenson – Mrs Elbert Smythe Stevenson of 53 North Sutton Place. I'm calling up to report a murder.

DUFFY has been examining lunch, but double-takes suddenly on the above.

DUFFY: Eh?

15 MRS STEVENSON: I mean – the murder hasn't been committed yet. I just overheard plans for it over the telephone ... over a wrong number that the operator gave me. (*DUFFY relaxes, sighs, starts taking lunch from bag*) I've been trying to trace down the call myself, but everybody is so stupid – and I guess in the end you're the only people who could *do* anything.

20 DUFFY: (*Not too impressed. ATTENDANT exits*) Yes, ma'am.

MRS STEVENSON: (*Trying to impress him*) It was a perfectly definite murder. I heard their plans distinctly. (*DUFFY begins to eat sandwich, phone at his ear*) Two men were talking, and they were going to murder some woman at eleven-fifteen tonight – she lived in a house near a bridge.

25

DUFFY: Yes, ma'am.

MRS STEVENSON: And there was a private patrolman on the street. He was going to go around for a beer on Second Avenue. And there was some third man – a client, who was paying to have this poor woman murdered – they were going to take her rings and bracelets – and use a knife ... well, it's unnerved me dreadfully – and I'm not well ...

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- 35 DUFFY: I see. (*Having finished sandwich, he wipes mouth with paper napkin*) When was all this, ma'am?
- MRS STEVENSON: About eight minutes ago. Oh ... (*Relieved*) Then you *can* do something? You *do* understand –
- DUFFY: And what is your name, ma'am? (*He reaches for pad*)
- MRS STEVENSON: (*Impatiently*) Mrs Stevenson. Mrs Elbert Stevenson.
- 40 DUFFY: And your address?
- MRS STEVENSON: 53 North Sutton Place. *That's* near a bridge. The Queensboro Bridge, you know – and *we* have a private patrolman on *our* street – and Second Avenue –

¹Crullers — a sweet roll in a twisted shape

*Lucille Fletcher, "Sorry Wrong Number".
In Ten Short Plays, Longman, 1996, pp. 8–9.*

- (a) (i) What is the setting of this scene? (1 mark)
- (ii) Which characters are on stage for this scene? (2 marks)
- (b) List TWO details of the impending murder that Mrs Stevenson reported. (2 marks)
- (c) Explain TWO dramatic effects created by the contrast between Duffy's casual manner and Mrs Stevenson's anxiety. (4 marks)
- (d) How do the stage directions contribute to characterization OR plot OR mood? (3 marks)
- (e) (i) Identify ONE instance in the scene where Mrs Stevenson's tone of voice changed. (1 mark)
- (ii) Explain the reason for the change in tone identified in (e) (i) above. (2 marks)
- (f) What is Mrs Stevenson beginning to realise in lines 41–43? (2 marks)
- (g) Suggest a title for this scene and justify your choice. (3 marks)

Total 20 marks

SECTION B – POETRY

2. Read the following poem carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

Brazilian Footballer

Pele¹ kicked in his mother's belly!
And the world shouted:
Gooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!
When her son was born,
5 He became the sun.
And rolled on the fields of heaven.
The moon and stars trained and coached him,
In the milky way
He swayed, danced and dribbled.
10 Smooth like water off a duck's back
Ready always to attack.
One hot day, heaven fell down, flooded!
Through the Almighty's hands
Pele had scored!

¹Pele – A Brazilian footballer widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time.

*Faustin Charles,
A Caribbean Dozen Poems from Caribbean Poets,
Walker Books, 1996, p. 24.*

- (a) What is the aim of the poet? **(2 marks)**
- (b) Comment on the effectiveness of line 3. **(2 marks)**
- (c) Explain what is suggested in the lines: 'When her son was born,/He became the sun.'
(lines 4–5). **(3 marks)**
- (d) Identify and comment on the figurative device, 'Smooth like water off a duck's back'
(line 10). **(3 marks)**
- (e) Explain the image presented in lines 4–11. **(3 marks)**
- (f) Compare the first three and the last three lines of the poem (lines 1–3 and 12–14). **(4 marks)**
- (g) Suggest another title for this poem. Justify your answer with evidence from the poem. **(3 marks)**

Total 20 marks

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SECTION C – PROSE FICTION

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

5 The river moved swiftly, swollen with rain. Through the darkness and the downpour he could not see the other side. He hesitated at the edge of the water, trying to discern the far bank. His glasses fogged with rain, blurring his vision even more. He removed them and thrust them into his pocket. For a moment he stood at the edge of the flowing river, seeing nothing but blackness, listening to the current. And then, far in the distance, he heard the bark of a dog. He closed his eyes and dove.

10 It was calm and quiet beneath the surface of the river, and he swam through the darkness, the current swift but smooth. For a few short seconds he felt safe, the cold water running over his body, his clothes fanning out with each stroke. And then his lungs began to burn. He pushed forward, fighting the need to rise, swimming until he could not endure the burning any longer and shot to the surface, exploding into the rain and wind. For a moment he rested, catching his breath, feeling the river carrying him away, and briefly he thought how peaceful it would be to just give up, and let the river carry him. But then lightning flashed again, and the whole river seemed to burn, and once again he was swimming fast wild strokes, and when he felt he couldn't lift his arm again, his knee brushed against rocks and he opened his eyes to see the shore and a sandy bank. He pulled himself forward onto the bank, and collapsed in the sand.

The rain beat down on his body. He took deep rapid breaths, coughing, spitting up river water. Lightning struck again. He knew he could be seen. He struggled to his feet and began to run.

Daniel Mason, *The Piano Tuner*
Vintage Books, 2002, p. 308.

- (a) Where is the incident taking place? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. (2 marks)
- (b) What prompted the character in the passage to dive? (2 marks)
- (c) What is the MAIN conflict established in paragraph 1? (2 marks)
- (d) Explain the effect created by TWO of the following:
- “The river moved swiftly, swollen with rain” (line 1)
 - “clothes fanning out with each stroke” (line 9)
 - “shot to the surface, exploding into the rain” (line 11)
- (e) Comment on the significance of the lightning in the passage. (3 marks)

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- (f) Identify ONE example of contrast in the passage and comment on its effectiveness. (3 marks)
- (g) Explain TWO ways in which the writer maintains suspense in the passage. (4 marks)

Total 20 marks

END OF TEST

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