



Upper secondary
Week 7

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES

SECTION B



Section B

[20 Marks]

Text 2

The text describes the musings of a wretched man who had lost a great sum of money and is almost 'paralysed' by the fact. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

- 1 I stepped on the grass and looked at the view below me. The green hill stretched away in a gentle descent and beyond that was the reservoir. I had spent the night in a grim mood and woken to see that nature seemed to have learnt of my poor situation. The sky being overcast, the waters of the reservoir appeared grey, cold and sullen as though it too knew. The stillness was exacerbated by the lack of wind that dreary morning. Not a leaf moved. Even the chirping of the birds was amiss as though they were watching me from their nests, wondering what I would do next. Gulping in the laden air, I began dragging my feet homeward. 5
- 2 Then my phone rang, startling me from my musings. It was a call from home. I gathered it was her calling to enquire where I had been the whole time last night. I had no choice. Just like a dead leaf cannot demand to return to the tree, I could never think of going to my relatives. They were struggling themselves to survive yet they do, more honestly but tediously. I had brought it upon myself. I must find a way to make it right again. A small flicker of resolve sparked in the very depth of my soul. For sure, there must be a way, I thought more positively for the first time after so many hours of gloom. 15
- 3 Yet as I continued along the path, a certain heaviness had again settled upon me. So weighed down was I by these cumbersome chains of grief fastened around my ankles, I was dragging my feet along. I was like a man lost to the world. The world was no longer interesting to me. 'Why me?' I asked myself repeatedly, silently, as I stood at the traffic light junction, waiting for the green man to appear. 20
- 4 Across the road, I saw a familiar face. It was Raymond, my neighbour a few doors away. He waved at me and I forced my wretched self to nod and smile. That gentle action of a wave meant the world to me. Any little bit of kindness, of humaneness I thirsted for with a thirst not even the entire world's store of water could quench. I had little to show of joy as I undoubtedly presented to him a face, fatigued and lustreless, as that one would find on a caged creature. Yes, that was where I was, I was trapped in a cage; a cage so stifling, I could hardly draw in a breath. 25
- 5 "How have you been?" Raymond asked, looking genuinely concerned although he had one of those faces that always appeared as imperturbable as fate. That morning, that face cracked a little; too little for me pour out my woes upon him. I tried to tell him that everything was good. I was hugely embarrassed. The shouts past midnight must have kept him and his entire household awake last night. Humiliation upon humiliation. I had lost all that money, our savings, my wife's and mine and now the neighbours too would know. 35
- 6 I just needed him to be my friend but I did not need him to know the details. A friend was what I needed most at that time. Just a friend; for at that moment I

realised how alone I was in my predicament. Being alone all this while was draining. That chance encounter with Raymond had alerted my senses to the fact that I was alone in my dilemma. Yet as I looked to the ground, I saw two shadows. Raymond's was still talking, in that voice which spoke humanity, care, generosity. Perhaps it was time I started sharing. Perhaps then, things would be better. I felt in my bones that Raymond would be the start of a long journey towards my regaining trust in the world again. 40

5. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 makes the landscape appear as though affected by the narrator's grim mood that morning.

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1.

[3]

6. At the end of paragraph 1, (line 7), 'Gulping in the laden air, I began dragging my feet homeward.'

Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

(i) breathing in quickly and deeply

-

[1]

(ii) pulling something along forcefully

-

[1]

7. In paragraph 2 (line 11), what is unusual and effective about the phrase 'no choice'?

[2]

8. In paragraph 3, (line 18), 'So, weighed down was I by these cumbersome chains of grief fastened around my ankles, I was dragging my feet along.'

(i) What is the narrator's grief being compared to here?

[1]

(ii) Why does the narrator describe his grief in such a way? [1]

9. From paragraph 5, (line 30), the narrator writes, 'That morning, that face cracked a little; too little for me pour out my woes upon him'.

(i) What did the narrator mean by the face cracking a little? Use evidence from the paragraph to support your answer. [1]

(ii) How and why did the narrator react the way he did to Raymond that morning? Use evidence from the sentence to support your answer. [1]

10. The narrator uses similes 'like a dead leaf cannot demand to return to the tree' (line 11) and 'like a man lost to the world' (line 19).

What do these similes suggest about the narrator's view of himself in his current situation? [2]

Similes	What they suggest about the narrator in his current situation
like a dead leaf cannot demand to return to the tree'	
like a man lost to the world	

11. In paragraph 5, (line 33), 'Humiliation upon humiliation.' [1]

What were the two humiliations the narrator was referring to?

12. In paragraph 6, (line 40), 'Yet as I looked to the ground, I saw two shadows. Raymond's was still talking, in that voice which spoke humanity, care, generosity.' What did the narrator feel from Raymond's continued presence and in what way do you think it was helpful to the narrator? [2]

13. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings of the narrator experienced throughout that day. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main feeling described in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use. [4]

Narrator's feelings

suffocated	denial	bored	humiliated
revengeful	liberated	resolved	

Flow Chart

Paragraph 2	: (i)	
↓		
Paragraph 3	: (ii)	
↓		
Paragraph 4	: (iii)	
↓		
Paragraph 5	: (iv)	