

DE BEERS

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

2008 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
The Law on stage

Tuesday, 4 March 2008

TOTAL MARKS: 100

TIME: 2 - 3 HOURS

THEME: The Law on the stage

TEXT: Court In The Act

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **ONE** question from **Section A** and **ONE** question from **SECTION B - TWO** in all.
2. Your ideas should be expressed as clearly as possible.
3. We invite you to express your own ideas in response to the questions - there are no "right" answers.
4. Write the section and number of the question above each answer, and start each question at the top of a new page.
5. On the cover of the examination book, please indicate:
 - a) your school's olympiad number
 - b) your personal examination number
 - c) each section and the questions you have answered

Do **NOT** write your name or your school's name on the cover

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

SECTION A

60 MARKS

1. Judge Albie Sachs, a well-respected South African judge, was recently called upon to make a judgement in a case where a Rastafarian was denied the opportunity to enter the legal profession because of a conviction for smoking cannabis. As part of his judgement, Sachs noted that:

“The right to believe or not to believe, and to act or not to act according to his or her beliefs or non-beliefs, is one of the key ingredients of any person’s dignity. Yet freedom of religion goes beyond protecting the inviolability of the individual conscience. For many believers, their relationship with God or creation is central to all their activities. It concerns their capacity to relate in an intensely meaningful fashion to their sense of themselves, their community and their universe. For millions in all walks of life, religion provides support and nurture and a framework for individual and social stability and growth. Religious belief has the capacity to awake concepts of self-worth and human dignity which form the cornerstone of human rights. It affects the believer’s view of society and founds the distinction between right and wrong. It expresses itself in the affirmation and continuity of powerful traditions that frequently have an ancient character transcending historical epochs and national boundaries.” (Case: Prince v President of the Law Society, Cape of Good Hope and Others, 1998.)

With this in mind, how would Judge Sachs have ruled in the court case between Antonio and Shylock? Write his judgement, including the outcome of the trial.

2. In an episode of the TV drama “Boston Legal”, one of the lawyers shoots a homeless man with a paintball gun after the homeless man had thrown a rock at him. The homeless man then arrives at the firm with his own lawyer and threatens to sue the man who shot him. The lawyer who fired the paintball responds by saying the following to the homeless man’s lawyer:

“Let me tell you something about the practice of law, son. It all comes down to money. I’ve got it. He hasn’t. I’ll win.”

Using the cases from the anthology, write an essay in which you discuss whether the outcome of legal matters depends on justice or money today.

5. Why do people commit crime? Imagine that the accused in “Twelve Angry Men”, Tracy Green in “The It Girls” and Ronnie in “The Winslow Boy” **ARE** guilty. Write diary entries for each of these characters in which they explore what motivated them and their feelings after they had been apprehended.
6. As we know from watching TV crime dramas, the first officer on the scene is quite important as he has to make decisions quickly. Write the police report for the first officer on the crime scene referred to in “Twelve Angry Men”.

AND

Once people have been arrested they are allowed to make one phone call. Write the phone dialogue between the young man accused of murder in “Twelve Angry Men” and the person whom he chooses to phone.

7. Colonel Watherstone disapproves of Catherine and John’s intended marriage because of the negative publicity that that the Winslow case has generated. Write an editorial for a conservative newspaper from the period of the play which would reflect the Colonel’s feelings.

AND

Write a sensational newspaper report about the case from the “It Girls”. The article should highlight the scandalous nature of the affair.

End of Examination Paper

3. Imagine that Shylock decided to appeal the decision in his case. Write the script of the retrial in play form. You must use relevant witnesses from the original trial and allow Shylock to use Sir Robert Morton as his advocate. It is not necessary to write your scene in Shakespearian English.
4. We do not see the jury discussions from the trial in “The It Girls”. Write your own transcript of the jury discussions, using the same jury members from the “Twelve Angry Men” excerpt. It would be advisable to choose about four jury members and allow them to do the bulk of the talking.

OR

We do not read about the jury discussion in Ronnie’s case in “The Winslow Boy”. Using the jury members from “Twelve Angry Men”, write a jury discussion for this case.

5. Experienced advocates often try to settle a case out of court as this saves time and allows them to be involved in more cases. You are Sir Robert Morton and have been asked to defend Shylock, the accused in “Twelve Angry Men” and Tracy Green. Write a motivation to your immediate superior in which you outline which **one** case you have decided to take to court and why, and also argue why you would settle the other two cases out of court.
6. The case in “The Winslow Boy” begins with a schoolboy being accused of stealing money. The school decides to expel him. In South Africa today, a state school may not expel a pupil; such action can only be taken by the Department of Education, which rarely expels anyone and is only likely to do so if the pupil is guilty of continuous, serious offences.

Imagine that this case happened at a state school in South Africa and the School Governing Body had recommended expulsion of the boy to the Department of Education. Write the Department’s response.
7. Portia stops for a meal on her way home after the trial. She meets Third Juror and Sir Robert who are seated at a table together. They begin to chat. Write the text of their discussion in play form.

8. Antonio and Stephanie Rogers could both feel that they are “victims”. Write a piece in which you discuss your feelings towards a crime you have experienced. In your writing, you should explain why you think that their feelings are frivolous.
9. Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote a famous novel called “Crime and Punishment.” Write your own piece on this title in which you explore the nature of these two concepts.
10. “A Lawyer Learns His Lesson”. Write this fairytale.
11. You are employed by Crane, Poole and Schmidt (the firm for which Brad Chase works) as an expert in jury selection. The same jurors as seen in “Twelve Angry Men” are potential jurors in the case of Rogers v Green. Write a psychological profile on any three jurors in which you explain why they either should or should not be suitable for the new case.

SECTION B

40 MARKS

1. Create a Facebook profile for Shylock. Your profile should include such information as: screen-name, interests, favourite movies/books, messages on your wall, “friends”. Label each part clearly. You may add other entries if you choose.

AND

Write the email which Shylock sends just before the case against Antonio comes to court. You may decide to whom this email is addressed.

2. A shark and a lawyer meet in a psychologist’s waiting room. Write a dialogue of their conversation while they wait.
3. Exodus 21 vs 23 and 24: “...if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound.” (Old Testament. This is part of the Torah, a holy book of the Jewish faith.)
Matthew 5 vs 38 – 40: “You have heard it was said “Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.” But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn him the other also, And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him take your cloak as well.” (New Testament. This passage forms part of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount.)

Despite Portia’s appeal to the “the quality of mercy”, it could be argued that most of the Christians at the court case do not embody this characteristic. You are a Life Orientation teacher. Create a lesson on religious tolerance using these texts and referring to the play.

4. Legal firms and lawyers are now allowed to advertise their services. Create print advertisements for:
 - Brad Chase
 - Sir Robert Morton
 - Portia

In each case, the language used should suit the time period of the play.