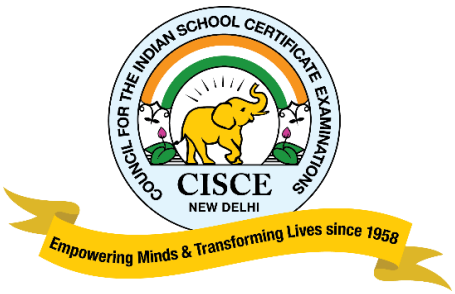
ISC

YEAR 2027

INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION



MODERN ENGLISH (891)

February 2025

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Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations is committed to serving the nation's children, through high quality educational endeavours, empowering them to contribute towards a humane, just and pluralistic society, promoting introspective living, by creating exciting learning opportunities, with a commitment to excellence.

ETHOS OF CISCE

- Trust and fair play.
- Minimum monitoring.
- Allowing schools to evolve their own niche.
- Catering to the needs of the children.
- Giving freedom to experiment with new ideas and practices.
- Diversity and plurality - the basic strength for evolution of ideas.
- Schools to motivate pupils towards the cultivation of:
  Excellence - The Indian and Global experience.
  Values - Spiritual and cultural - to be the bedrock of the educational experience.
- Schools to have an 'Indian Ethos', strong roots in the national psyche and be sensitive to national aspirations.

COMPULSORY SUBJECT
MODERN ENGLISH (891)

This subject may not be taken with English.

Aims (English Language)

To develop the ability to:

- read with comprehension, drawing information directly or by inference from the text, through an understanding of grammar and structure, vocabulary, and idioms.
- employ a variety of skills in writing within a framework using argument, imagination or summarising.
- use the English language for study and social and cultural interaction.
- speak and write clearly and to the purpose, using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and idioms.
- derive, infer and critically assess information through listening.
- express oneself by speaking individually, or in a discussion.

Aims (Prescribed Texts)

- To enjoy and appreciate literature through a critical study of selected literary works.
- Through the study of literature:
  - acquire an understanding of humanity through respect for social and cultural sensibilities.
  - develop an attitude of internationalism.
  - build the power of expression and inculcate aesthetic and ethical values.

CLASSES XI & XII

The subject Modern English has ***two*** components, ***English Language*** and ***Literature in English.*** Each of these components will consist of a ***Theory Paper*** of 80 Marks and ***Project Work*** of 20 Marks.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

*There will be **two** papers in English Language:*

Paper I: *Theory (3 hours): 80 Marks*

Paper II: *Project Work: 20 Marks*

PAPER I: THEORY - 80 Marks

All *questions will be compulsory.*

Question One:

A composition on one of a number of subjects.

Question Two:

(a) Directed writing.
(b) Proposal Writing based on a given situation.

Question Three:

Short-answer questions to test grammar, structure, and usage.

Question Four:

Comprehension.

Question One

Candidates will be required to select ***one*** composition topic from a choice of ***six.*** The choice will normally include narrative, descriptive, reflective, argumentative/ persuasive, expository topics and original short story.

The required length of the composition is **400 – 450** words.

The main criteria by which the compositions will be marked are as follows:

(a) The quality of the language employed, the range and appropriateness of vocabulary and sentence structure, syntax, the correctness of grammatical constructions, punctuation, and spelling.

(b) The degree to which candidates have been successful in organising the content of the composition as a whole and in individual paragraphs.

Question Two

There are ***two*** parts to this question and ***both*** parts are compulsory.

(a) Directed Writing

The piece of directed writing must be based on the information and all the points provided. The required length is 250-300 words. The range of subjects includes feature article, book review, blogs, newspaper report, and statement of purpose.

Skills such as amplifying, describing and re-stating are involved. The candidates' ability in the above skills, including format, will be taken into account as well as their ability to handle language appropriately in the context of the given situation.

(b) Proposal Writing

Candidates will be required to write a proposal based on a given situation.

The proposal should include (i) An Introduction/Heading (ii) Objectives (iii) List of measures to be taken. A concluding statement is necessary.

The format prescribed by the CISCE must be followed. The candidates will also be marked on linguistic ability.

Question Three

All the items in this question are compulsory and their number and type/ pattern may vary from year to year. They will consist of the transformation of sentences, phrasal verbs, and verbs/tenses, which will test the candidates' knowledge of the essentials of functional English grammar and structure.

Question Four

A passage of about 700 words will be provided.

Questions based on the passage will be as follows:

- Questions that test the candidates' analytical skills, knowledge of vocabulary, ability to understand the content, infer information and meanings from the text.
- A question that elicits the main ideas of all or part of the passage, where the candidate will be required to frame a summary (keeping to a word limit), in a coherent manner. Marks will be awarded for expression and the candidate's ability to summarise clearly in complete sentences. Marks will be deducted for linguistic errors.

  NOTE: This part must be done in the grid form. The use of abbreviations and contractions will not be accepted.

PAPER II: PROJECT WORK - 20 Marks

In addition to the syllabus prescribed above for Classes XI and XII, candidates are also required to be assessed in Project Work.

PROJECT WORK FOR CLASS XI

Project Work in Class XI consists of assessment of candidates in **Listening** and **Speaking Skills** which are to be assessed ***internally***, by the school, during English course work and shown in the student's report and school record.

Candidates are to be assessed in ***two*** projects, one on Listening Skills and one on Speaking Skills.

Details of assignments for Project Work on Listening and Speaking Skills are given below:

Listening Skills

An unseen passage of about 500 words is to be read aloud, twice, the first time at normal reading speed (about 110 words a minute) and the next time at a slower speed. The passage may be taken from any novel, newspaper, magazine article, journal and so on but **not from an ICSE or ISC textbook**. Students may make brief notes during the readings followed by answering objective type questions based on the passage, on the paper provided.

Speaking Skills

Students are to be assessed through an individual presentation of about three minutes followed by a discussion with the subject teacher, for another two or three minutes. Some of the themes which may be addressed are:

1. Narrating an experience
2. Giving directions or instructions on how to make or operate something
3. Providing a description
4. Giving a report
5. Expressing an opinion or a theme-based conversation

Internal Evaluation by the Teacher (20 Marks):

Assessment Criteria	Description	Marks
Listening Skills (Aural)	Response to questions based on listening comprehension	10
Speaking Skills (Oral)	- Content	2
	- Fluency	2
	- Vocabulary	2
	- Sentence structure	2
	- Confidence	2
TOTAL		**20**

PROJECT WORK FOR CLASS XII

Project Work in Class XII consists of the assessment of candidates in ***three*** projects, ***one each*** on **Listening**, **Speaking** and **Writing skills**.

Listening and Speaking skills are to be **assessed internally**, by the school, during English coursework in Class XII.

Writing Skills are to be **assessed externally** by the Visiting Examiner, appointed locally, and approved by CISCE.

Details of assignments for Project Work are given below:

Listening Skills (to be internally assessed by the subject teacher)

An unseen passage of about 500 words may be read aloud, twice, the first time at normal reading speed (about 110 words a minute) and the next time at a slower speed. The passage may be taken from any novel, newspaper, magazine article, journal, and so on but **not from an ICSE or ISC textbook**. Students may make brief notes during the readings followed by answering objective-type questions based on the passage, on the paper provided.

Speaking Skills (to be internally assessed by the subject teacher)

Students are to be assessed through an individual presentation of about three minutes followed by a discussion with the subject teacher, for another two or three minutes.

Some of the themes which may be addressed are:

1. Narrating an experience
2. Giving directions or instructions on how to make or operate something
3. Providing a description
4. Giving a report
5. Expressing an opinion or a theme-based conversation

Writing Skills (to be externally assessed by the Visiting Examiner)

A piece of written work of about 500 words must be produced.

List of suggested assignments for Project Work:

1. The text of a brochure.
2. A product description.
3. A process description (e.g. instruction to operate a device, a recipe, a scientific experiment).
4. Description of a sporting event.
5. An autobiographical experience.
6. Review of a television serial.

EVALUATION

Marks (out of a total of 20) should be distributed as given below:

1.	Internal Evaluation by Teacher* • Listening Skills (Aural) • Speaking Skills (Oral)	 5 Marks 5 Marks
2.	Evaluation by Visiting Examiner of Writing Skills**	10 Marks
TOTAL		**20 Marks**

*** Internal Evaluation by the Teacher (10 Marks):**

Assessment Criteria	Description	Marks
Listening Skills (Aural)	Response to questions based on listening comprehension	5
Speaking Skills (Oral)	- Content - Fluency - Vocabulary - Sentence structure - Confidence	1 1 1 1 1
TOTAL		**10**

****Criteria for Evaluation by the Visiting Examiner (10 Marks):**

Assessment Criteria		Description	Marks
1.	Presentation	Overall formatting (headings, sub-headings, paragraphing) within a word limit of 500 words and a separate title page.	2
2.	Originality	No plagiarism	2
3.	Use of appropriate language	Use of suitable terminology, vocabulary, and illustrations for the specific task chosen.	2
4.	Structure	Must read as a unified whole.	2
5.	Style	Lucid style, which communicates the message effectively	2
TOTAL			**10**

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (PRESCRIBED TEXTS)

*There will be **two** papers in Literature in English:*

***Paper I:** Theory (3 hours): 80 Marks*

***Paper II**: Project Work: 20 Marks*

PAPER I: THEORY – 80 Marks

Candidates will be required to answer questions based on the prescribed textbooks, which include Drama, Prose (Short Stories), and Poetry.

Drama and Prose (Short Stories)
Questions set will be central to the text. Candidates will be required to show that they have understood the questions asked and are able to clearly respond in their own words. Questions will test understanding, appreciation and ability to analyse and synthesise.

Poetry
Questions on a poem or a group of poems will be set to test the candidates' responses. The questions will focus on the content, understanding, and personal responses of candidates to the entire poem. Candidates' ability to appreciate the content, stylistic and literary features of the poem(s) in question will also be tested.

SYLLABUS TO BE COVERED

Class XI

I. DRAMA: *Pygmalion-George Bernard Shaw (Acts I & II)*

II. PERSPECTIVES: A Collection of ISC Short Stories

1. *Lawley Road – R.K. Narayan*
2. *The Landlady – Roald Dahl*
3. *Most Beautiful – Ruskin Bond*
4. *Dream-Children: Reverie – Charles Lamb*
5. *Ratan Tata: A Life-Settling in at Cornell (An Excerpt) – Thomas Mathew*

III. REFLECTIONS: A Collection of ISC Poems

1. *Father Returning Home– Dilip Chitre*
2. *Life Doesn't Frighten Me– Maya Angelou*
3. *Sadness Comes–Donna Ashworth*
4. *A Prayer for My Daughter– William Butler Yeats*
5. *Bora Ring– Judith Wright*

NOTE: The Class XI Examination is to be conducted on the portion of the syllabus that is prescribed for Class XI

Class XII

I. DRAMA: *Pygmalion-George Bernard Shaw (Acts III, IV & V)*

II. PERSPECTIVES: A Collection of ISC Short Stories

1. *The Doll's House– Katherine Mansfield*
2. *Death by Scrabble – Charlie Fish*
3. *The Dreamer– 'Saki'*
4. *Games at Twilight – Anita Desai*
5. *The Father-Thing – Philip K. Dick*

III. REFLECTIONS: A Collection of ISC Poems

1. *My Grandmother's House–Kamala Das*
2. *Refugee Blues– W.H. Auden*
3. *Urban–Nissim Ezekiel*
4. *Ode to Tomatoes – Pablo Neruda*
5. *The Black Santa – Allison Joseph*

NOTE: The ISC (Class XII) Examination paper will be set ONLY on the portion of the syllabus that is prescribed for Class XII.

PAPER II: PROJECT WORK - 20 Marks

In addition to the syllabus prescribed above for Classes XI and XII, candidates are also required to be assessed in Project Work. Project Work consists of assessment of **Writing Skills** in Classes XI and XII. The objective is to produce original, creative and insightful perspectives on the drama/short stories/poems.

PROJECT WORK FOR CLASS XI

Project Work in Class XI consists of assessment of Writing Skills (***only from the syllabus to be covered in Class XI***) which are to be assessed ***internally*** by the school.

Candidates will be required to undertake ***one written assignment*** **of 1000-1500 words**, which should be structured as given below:

A. The written assignment must be given a title in the form of a question which should allow the candidate to explore the drama or the chosen short stories/poems in depth.

B. The written assignment must follow the structure given below:

- Introduction:
  - Explanation of the question that has been framed
  - Reason for choosing the text
  - Brief explanation of how the candidate intends to interpret the chosen text and literary materials used in the process
- Main Body – organised and well-structured treatment of the question using appropriate sub-headings.
- Conclusion – a comprehensive summary of the points made in the main body.

Internal Evaluation by the Teacher (20 Marks):

Assessment Criteria		Candidates should be able to:	Marks
1.	Process	- Identify the topic. - Plan a detailed written assignment. - Produce a written outline.	6
2.	Understanding, Application of Knowledge and Analysis	Use a range of literary aspects such as plot, setting, characters, action, style, and ideas in order to present an organised and well-structured complete assignment.	8
3.	Presentation	Prepare the document (overall format: headings, sub-headings, paragraphing) writing within a word limit of 1000-1500 words and provide a separate title page.	6
TOTAL			**20**

List of suggested assignments for Project Work:

1. Analysis of a theme from any short story/ poem in the syllabus (prescribed texts).
2. Analysis of a character from the drama or any short story/poem in the syllabus (prescribed texts.)
3. Background – historical, cultural, literary context and relevance of the writer/poet chosen.
4. Summary / paraphrase of the chosen text.
5. Appreciation of literary qualities of the chosen text.
6. Identifying with a character in the chosen text and presenting his/her personal perspective.
7. Imagining an alternate outcome or ending or extension of the chosen text and its impact on the plot/setting/characters/mood and tone.
8. Comparing and contrasting two characters/themes from different short stories/poems of the prescribed texts.

PROJECT WORK FOR CLASS XII

Project Work in Class XII consists of assessment of **Writing Skills** which are **to be assessed internally by the subject teacher and externally by the Visiting Examiner** appointed locally and approved by CISCE.

Candidates will be required to undertake ***one written assignment*** **of 1000-1500 words,** which should be structured as given below:

A. The written assignment must be given a title in the form of a question which should allow the candidate to explore the drama or the chosen short stories/poems in depth.

B. The written assignment must follow the structure given below:

- Introduction:
  - Explanation of the question that has been framed.
  - Reason for choosing the text.
  - Brief explanation of how the candidate intends to interpret the chosen text and literary materials used in the process.
- Main Body – organised and well-structured treatment of the question using appropriate sub-headings.
- Conclusion – comprehensive summary of the points made in the main body.

Note: The text/texts analysed in the Class XI Project Work must not be repeated in Class XII.

EVALUATION

Marks (out of a total of 20) should be distributed as given below:

1.	Internal Evaluation by Teacher*	10 marks
2.	Evaluation by Visiting Examiner**	10 marks
TOTAL		**20 marks**

*** Internal Evaluation by the Teacher (10 Marks):**

Assessment Criteria		**Candidates should be able to:**	**Marks**
1.	Process	Identify the topic. Plan a detailed written assignment. Produce a written outline.	3
2.	Understanding, Application of Knowledge and Analysis	Use a range of literary aspects such as plot, setting, characters, action, style and ideas in order to present an organised and well-structured complete assignment.	4
3.	Presentation	Prepare the document (overall format: headings, sub-headings, paragraphing) writing within a word limit of 1000-1500 words and provide a separate title page.	3
TOTAL			**10**

****Criteria for Evaluation by the Visiting Examiner (10 Marks)**

Assessment Criteria		Candidates should be able to:	Marks
1.	Presentation	Prepare the document (overall format: headings, sub-headings, paragraphing) writing within a word limit of 1000-1500 words and provide a separate title page.	4
2.	Understanding, Application of Knowledge and Analysis	Use a range of literary aspects such as plot, setting, characters, action, style and ideas in order to present an organised and well-structured complete assignment.	6
TOTAL			**10**

List of suggested assignments for Project Work:

1. Analysis of a theme from any short story/poem in the syllabus (prescribed texts).
2. Analysis of a character from the drama or any short story/poem in the syllabus (prescribed texts).
3. Background – historical, cultural, literary context and relevance of the writer/poet chosen.
4. Summary / paraphrase of the chosen text.
5. Appreciation of literary qualities of the chosen text.
6. Identifying with a character in the chosen text and presenting his/her personal perspective.
7. Imagining an alternate outcome or ending or extension of the chosen text and its impact on the plot/setting/characters/mood and tone.
8. A script for dramatisation, based on the short story/poem chosen.
9. Writing a short story based on a poem.
10. Comparing and contrasting two characters/themes from different short stories/poems of the prescribed texts.

Note: No Question Paper for Project Work will be set by CISCE.