# RAFFLES INSTITUTION

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## END-OF-YEAR EXAMINATION 2009

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| Subject | : | ENGLISH |
| Level | : | SECONDARY TWO |
| Date | : | 15 OCTOBER 2009 (THURSDAY) |
| Time | : | 0800 – 0945 (1 HR 45 MIN) |

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper comprises **TWO** sections.
2. Answer **ALL** the questions in Section A in the order set.
3. Answer **ONE** question from Section B.
4. Hand in your answers to Section A and Section B separately.

Name: _____ Class: _____

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 8 PRINTED PAGES EXCLUDING THE COVER PAGE.

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Section A: Reading Comprehension [30 marks]
Read the passage, then **answer all** the questions that follow.

1 I was in my bungalow in Peshawar early one Sunday morning when I received a phone call from a hysterical officer of the Punjab Regiment. "There is fighting," he said over and over again. He was unable to say anything else. I put on my uniform, drove my jeep around to the Brigadier's house, and found him in white tennis shirt and shorts, about to have breakfast on his lawn. "I think the balloon has finally burst," I said. "I don't think you have time to change." As I spoke, we could both hear the crackle of small fire arms not very far away. The Brigadier grabbed his army hat with its distinctive red band, jumped into my jeep, still in his tennis clothes, and away we went.

2 What had happened, we found out later, was this: The barracks and the parade grounds of the 19th Lancers and the Punjab Regiment were side by side. The guardroom of the 19th Lancers was temporarily manned by the neighbouring Punjab Regiment. To enable the men in the 19th Lancers to be used for more mobile duties, their commanding officer had quite rightly made the Punjab Regiment responsible for the security of the battalion installations.

3 A truckload of Punjab Regiment infantrymen was patrolling the cantonment perimeter road that Sunday morning, and as it drove past the 19th Lancers guardroom, a shot was fired by one of the Punjab Regiment soldiers on guard duty. Precisely why the shot was fired was never discovered, beyond the fact that the loosing off of the one round was almost certainly accidental. But the bullet hit the truck of the patrolling Punjab Regiment soldiers. ***They*** immediately assumed that they were under attack, rushed back to their barracks, and alerted the rest. Within minutes the Punjab Regiment had launched a classic infantry attack on the 19th Lancers whom they assumed had attacked them. By the time we arrived on the scene both sides were deployed in war. A machine-gun section of the Punjab Regiment was giving covering fire to one of their platoons, which was advancing on a flank. On the 19th Lancers' side, men were deployed, too, and fired back.

4 This was the scene we came across as we neared the parade ground. "Drive straight down the middle," said the Brigadier, and he stood up, clutching the windshield of my open jeep. I had no time even to be terrified. Out of the corner of my eye, I was watching the Punjab flanking operation, wondering whether the apparition beside me would be startling enough to make the troops come to their senses and what a lucky accident it was that the Brigadier had decided to play tennis that morning, since he was even more striking a figure in white than in his usual uniform.

5 I kept the jeep slowly moving until we were in the middle of the parade ground shared by the two battalions. "I'll walk over to the 19th Lancers," the Brigadier said. "You go over to the Punjab Regiment and make them stand up."



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6 The firing had died down. I heard behind my back the Brigadier's firm but conversational tone. "Now then, what's all this nonsense? Get up, all of you," he said, as though addressing schoolboys refusing to get out of bed. I decided to do the same. To my relief, some soldiers did begin to stand up, but whereas the Brigadier's authority and the superior discipline of the 19th Lancers enabled him to get them under control almost immediately, I found myself surrounded by furious, shaken soldiers of the Punjab Regiment, who were convinced that they were in the right.

7 "Let's all move over to the guardroom," I said, and was relieved when, leaving the 19th Lancers' side, the Brigadier came over to join me. By now some of the Punjab Regiment officers were on the scene and were volubly defending their men's action.

8 The Brigadier was superb. He allowed them to say their piece. Then, turning to the most senior Punjab Regiment officer, he said, "If you intend to stay in the Army, I advise you to get your men disarmed and under control. Otherwise, I'll have you out within twenty-four hours."

9 I left the Brigadier with the Punjab Regiment officers to try to extract some information from a dying soldier, the only casualty of the morning's shooting. By all accounts, he was the one who had fired the fateful shot. He lay on a stretcher waiting for an ambulance, and a fellow soldier was trying to keep the flies away from his appalling wound. His stomach was like a model used in medical school for anatomy lessons because his liver, intestines, kidneys, and spleen were clearly visible. I sat with him. He remained unconscious until he died.

10 I drove back to the brigade headquarters to warn the police chief of what had happened. We all obscurely knew that the uneasy peace between the 19th Lancers and the Punjab Regiment in Peshawar was over, but we hardly expected what followed. Within an hour the rumour had spread all over the North-West Frontier Province that soldiers from the Punjab Regiment had run amok in Peshawar Cantonment and had killed soldiers from the 19th Lancers and civilians. And within three hours other soldiers from the 19th Lancers had begun entering the cantonment and were killing soldiers from the Punjab Regiment and civillians in a bout of frenzied savagery unparalleled anywhere on the subcontinent.

Adapted from *The Confrontation*, Anonymous



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**Answer ALL the questions in the order set.**
You are advised to spend **not more than 50 minutes** on this section.

***From Paragraph 1***

1. Why was the officer described as 'hysterical' (line 2)? [1]

2. Using an adjective, state how the officer was probably feeling as he spoke to the narrator 'hysterically' (line 1-2). [1]

3. Describe the atmosphere in Paragraph 1. [1]

4. What does the phrase *'the crackle of small fire arms not very far away'* (lines 7-8) foreshadow? [1]



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***From Paragraph 3***

5(i). 'They immediately assume ...' (line 24). What does the word ***'They'*** in this quotation refer to? [1]

5(ii).Why did the Punjab Regiment's infantrymen think that they were under attack? [1]

6. In your own words, explain, with key details how the fight between the Punjab Regiment and 19th Lancers started. [3]

3 and

***From Paragraph 4***

7. *'This was the scene we came across as we neared the parade ground.'* (line 31). What does 'the scene' refer to? [1]



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8. Who does '*the apparition beside me*' (line 35) refer to? [1]

***From Paragraph 6***

9. Why was the narrator unable to get the Punjabi soldiers under control? [1]

***From Paragraph 8***

10(i). 'The Brigadier was superb' (line 55). With reference to this quote, state in your own words the narrator's **opinion** of the Brigadier. [1]

10(ii) Give **2 reasons** why he felt this way about the Brigadier. [2]



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***From Paragraph 9***

11(i). From this paragraph, quote a sentence which has a simile. [1]

11(ii). Explain the purpose of the use of this simile. [2]

***From Paragraph 10***

12. In the line, *'... within three hours other soldiers from the 19th Lancers had begun entering the cantonment and were killing soldiers from the Punjab Regiment and civillians in a bout of frenzied savagery unparalleled anywhere on the subcontinent'* (lines 73-76)

What was the writer trying to convey about the battle in the following underlined phrases? Express your answer in your own words.

(i) 'within three hours' [1]

(ii) 'frenzied savagery' [1]



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13. Choose **only 5 WORDS** from the following and explain them as they are used in the passage. You may use one word or a phrase of not more than seven words in your answer. [5]

a. striking (line 38)

b. shaken (line 49)

c. volubly (line 53)

d. extract (line 59)

e. obscurely (line 68)

f. rumour (line 70)

g. unparalleled (line 76)

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Section B: Essay Writing [25 marks]

You are advised to spend **no more than 50 minutes** on this section.

**Answer ONE question only.**

Your essay should be about 500 words long.
Please make **close and sustained reference** to the text in your answer.

**Please note that you will be assessed for your use of English in this part of the paper.**

1. Love and hate influence the decisions and actions of the characters in *The Merchant of Venice*. Discuss the truth of the statement with close reference to the following characters – Shylock, Bassanio and Jessica.

2. The characters in *The Merchant of Venice* serve the purpose of raising an awareness of discrimination that exists in society. With reference to 3 characters in the play, show how Shakespeare achieves his purpose. Provide evidence from the play to support your answer.

**END OF PAPER**



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ANSWER

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1. The officer kept repeating the same sentence and could not say anything else.

2. He was probably feeling worried.

3. The atmosphere was tense.

4. It foreshadows the all-out fighting that was going to happen.

5(i) It refers to the patrolling Punjab Regiment soldiers.
(ii) Their truck was hit.

6. As the truck of patrolling Punjab Regiment infantrymen drove past the 19th Lancers guardroom, a Punjab Regiment soldier on guard duty fired a shot. Nobody knew the exact reason for firing the shot. Unfortunately the bullet accidentally hit the truck of patrolling Punjab Regiment soldiers who at once took for granted that the 19th Lancers were attacking them. They went back quickly to inform the rest in their barracks and started to fight with the 19th Lancers.

7. It refers to the place where the Punjab Regiment and the 19th Lancers were fighting.

8. It refers to the Brigadier.

9. They thought they were right to attack the 19th Lancers.

10(i) The narrator respected the Brigadier.
(ii) The Brigadier knew how to control and deal with his Punjab Regiment officers. He was tactful but strict, listened to their piece and advised the most senior officer to disarm and control his men or he would sack him within twenty-four hours.

11(i) The sentence is "His stomach was like a model used in medical school for anatomy lessons because his liver, intestines, kidneys and spleen were clearly visible".
(ii) The purpose is to emphasize how badly wounded the soldier was and how gruesome the fight was.

12(i) The battle spread quickly.
(ii) The battle was uncontrollable and violent.

13 a. attention-attracting.
b. unnerved.
c. talking too much.
d. acquire.
e. vaguely.
f. gossip/groundless information.
g. unmatched.

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