English Paper 2
FORM 4
FEBRUARY TRIAL 3

MARKING SCHEME

1. Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

A sycophant is someone who **flatters** a higher authority in a rather insincere and fake manner and uses them to get his own work done. In this work spirited piece you will learn how to identify and deal with a sycophant at work.

They are the so-called brown-nosers, who will try every possible way to get their job done without any concern or **courtesy** as to who is affected in the process or without bothering about the consequences of their actions. There are many kinds of employees that you may come across at the workplace, and sycophants are one of them. They will insincerely flatter a person of higher authority, nag them to no end, bully juniors, and do whatever they can, for personal gain. This attitude can be **venomous** and can pollute the work environment. You need to deal with sycophants in a diplomatic way, whether they are your juniors or your co-workers. The paragraphs below enlist the characteristics of a sycophant so that you can identify one if you come across him/her at the workplace, and also provides some tips on how to deal with brown-nosers at work.

This is one of the classic traits of a sycophant. He talks very sweetly, to the point of spreading diabetes (literally).Of course, they are least interested in knowing or caring about you. All they want is authority since they don't have any. They probably presume that by displaying this attitude, you are left with a feeling of obligation. This extra sweet behavior gives them an edge that they are better than everyone else, and that their demands must be fulfilled first.

We all love to talk, of course, and it is rather important to be communicate and let your voice be heard at the workplace so that you are not considered a wallflower. But this kind of talking comprises sensible, intellectual stuff. If you've come across as a person who unnecessarily blabbers just to grab attention, it is a sure indication of a sycophant.They may be loud enough for the entire department to hear them. The objective of all this is to make their presence felt, to indicate that they are one of the outgoing, cool personalities who deserves attention. Perhaps this never occurs to them that they might as well concentrate on their work to gain brownie points. All they do is talk—no, blabber. Incessantly.

Another classic trait of these butt-kissers is gossip. Oh they so love to gossip and spread rumors. You would immediately identify a sycophant if you find out that unnecessary rumors have been spreading at work. They are possessed with the dirty habit of digging out the most personal information, twisting facts, and spreading them across like wildfire. There is no limit to how low they will sink, these people will do anything to work their way to their benefit.

Oh no, they are not loyal. Not in the least. But yes, they will put on a loyal face when they want their job to be done. If you are useful to them in any way, you'll find them shielding you at every point, jumping in for you, protecting you. Once their job is done, it's goodbye. Worse still, if they find out that you are not useful to them, they will dump you like a hot potato. If you are their boss/employer, be sure that they will continue licking your boots until you are in-charge. If not, it's an *arrivederci*.

If you encounter someone who is irritatingly abusive, you have a goddamn maniac sycophant in your hands. This especially occurs in the mid-level management department of the corporate scenario, where managers actually have near-to-zero capabilities to run the organization. Yet, they will try to control the department, abuse juniors, and create a poisonous environment to establish their authority. Their pompous attitude towards subordinates and buttering up the seniors is nerve-wracking.

These ass-kissers are known for sabotaging their colleagues. That is to say, they will create circumstances wherein the office cannot function without them, and thus, they establish their position of control. They may not convey important messages, destroy important papers/documents, or do whatever it takes to wreak havoc on their colleagues to get themselves in a better position.

Whether you are a co-worker or an employer, try to create situations that evoke reactions in them. Let's say, for instance, at an office meeting, suggest some lame ideas and check for their reaction. A sincere/timid employee may agree to what you say, for fear of rejecting the boss/co-worker's opinion. A self-assured employee will put forth his honest views. As for the sycophant, he will agree with whatever you say. What's more, he will appreciate you to no end. When you begin to identify this, speak up. Specify that you need honest opinions, not flattery. Make it clear that you despise the 'Yes Sir' attitude.

Tread very cautiously with the employees whom you suspect to be sycophants. Don't fall victim to their gossip or flattery. These douche bags will do anything to take advantage of you. Be very careful while talking to them. If they annoy you, do not flare up, because it is not going to solve anything. Keep calm, take deep breaths, and quietly go about your work.

Conduct periodic assessment and review tests to examine your employees. Your employees reactions and answers will give you a good idea as to what the sycophant among them is up to. Next, give him certain projects or tasks that require him to genuinely use his skills without any flattery or help from others. Eventually, he will begin to understand that his agenda is not going to work.

As an employer, you have an edge over your employees. Lay down firm ground rules regarding employee behavior, appearance, speech, communication, etc. Mention that flattering seniors or exhibiting any kind of selfish attitude will be dealt with sternly and might lead to loss of reputation.

Sometimes, it is necessary to be upfront. If you find someone buttering up to you for their benefit, be forthright and direct. Communicate clearly that you will not tolerate this kind of behavior.

Suppose that you have joined as a new manager and you have no idea if the employee is obsequious, investigate. Sometimes, it may so happen that the employee is not a sycophant, but is merely trying to impress you to feel better about himself. Speak to your seniors and your peers and ascertain if the employee is a sycophant. If he irritates you excessively or flatters you in a honeyed voice, complain to your seniors or deal with the employee in a diplomatic manner.

While trying to avoid sycophants, it is important that you don't get embroiled in the situation such that you do not begin to think the same way. Such an attitude is cheap and disgusting, not just for you, but also the organization. Keep calm and plan a strategy to get such people realize that their attitude is intolerable.

(a) Who, according to the passage, is a sycophant? (2marks)

A sycophant is someone who flatters a higher authority in a rather insincere and fake manner and uses them to get his own work done

(b) What are the characteristics of a sycophant? (5marks)

- **Excessively Sweet**
- **Unnecessarily talkative**
- **Spreads rumors**
- **The loyalty factor**
- **The abusive tone**
- **Wreaking damage**

(c) Make notes on how to deal with sycophants at work. (6marks)

- **Evoke Reactions**
- **Stay Alert**
- **Periodic Assessment**
- **Establish Rules**
- **Be Straightforward**
- **Investigate**

(d) Why is it important that you investigate the employee for a sycophantic behavior when you joined a new manager? (2marks)

The employee may not be a sycophant, but may merely trying to impress you to feel better about himself.

(e) Which words used by the writer shows that he despises sycophants? (2marks)

- **Cheap**
- **Disgusting**

(f) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. (3marks)

i. Flatters **praises**
ii. Courtesy **politeness**
iii. Venomous **deadly/ dangerous**

2. Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions that follow.

MRS. LINDE. Do you mean never to tell him about it?
Nora (*meditatively, and with a half smile*). Yes–someday, perhaps, after many years, when I am no longer as nice-looking as I am now. Don’t laugh at me! I mean, of course, when Torvald is no longer as devoted to me as he is now; when my

dancing and dressing-up and reciting have palled on him; then it may be a good thing to have something in reserve– (*Breaking off*.) What nonsense! That time will never come. Now, what do you think of my great secret, Christine? Do you still think I am of no use? I can tell you, too, that this affair has caused me a lot of worry. It has been by no means easy for me to meet my engagements punctually. I may tell you that there is something that is called, in business, quarterly interest, and another thing called payment in installments, and it is always so dreadfully difficult to manage them. I have had to save a little here and there, where I could, you understand. I have not been able to put aside much from my housekeeping money, for Torvald must have a good table. I couldn't let my children be shabbily dressed; I have felt obliged to use up all he gave me for them, the sweet little darlings!

MRS. LINDE. So it has all had to come out of your own necessaries of life, poor Nora?

Nora. Of course. Besides, I was the one responsible for it. Whenever Torvald has given me money for new dresses and such things, I have never spent more than half of it; I have always bought the simplest and cheapest things. Thank Heaven, any clothes look well on me, and so Torvald has never noticed it. But it was often very hard on me, Christine–because it is delightful to be really well dressed, isn't it?

MRS. LINDE. Quite so.

Nora. Well, then I have found other ways of earning money. Last winter I was lucky enough to get a lot of copying to do; so I locked myself up and sat writing every evening until quite late at night. Many a time I was desperately tired; but all the same it was a tremendous pleasure to sit there working and earning money. It was like being a man.

MRS. LINDE. How much have you been able to pay off in that way?

Nora. I can't tell you exactly. You see, it is very difficult to keep an account of a business matter of that kind. I only know that I have paid every penny that I could scrape together. Many a time I was at my wits' end. (*Smiles*.) Then I used to sit here and imagine that a rich old gentleman had fallen in love with me–

MRS. LINDE. What! Who was it?

Nora. Be quiet!–that he had died; and that when his will was opened it contained, written in big letters, the instruction: "The lovely Mrs. Nora Helmer is to have all I possess paid over to her at once in cash."

MRS. LINDE. But, my dear Nora–who could the man be?

(a) "Do you mean never to tell him about it? "What is this that is never to be told? (4marks)

Nora Helmer on one occasion secretly borrowed a large sum of money√ so that her husband, Torvald Helmer, could recover from a serious illness in Italy. √ She never told him of this loan√ and has been secretly paying it back in small installments by saving from her household allowance. √

(b) There seems to be something Nora was supposed to have told Torvald before immersing herself in the secret that she is not ready to divulge to Torvald. Why, according to what happens earlier in the play, was Nora not ready to let him know? (4marks)

- **Torvald is a man who has strong opinions about the borrowing.**
- **It would also be painful and humiliating for Torvald to know that he owed her anything.**
- **It would upset our mutual relations.**
- **Their beautiful happy home would no longer be what it was.**

(c) When, according to the excerpt, is Nora thinking would be the right time to reveal the secret? (3marks)

- **When she is no longer as nice-looking as she is now.**
- **When Torvald is no longer as devoted to her as he is now.**
- **When her dancing and dressing-up and reciting have palled on him.**

(d) Discuss **two** themes presented in the excerpt. (4marks)

- **Deceit. Secret is hidden by Nora from her husband Helmer.**
- **Role of women.**

(e) Describe **two** traits of Nora as portrayed in the excerpt. (4marks)

- **Harworking. She works herself until late to pay back the debt.**
- **Secretive. Not willing to reveal secret.**

(f) Rewrite by replacing **earning** with *earn* without changing the sentence's meaning. (1mark)
Well, then I have found other ways of earning money.
Well, then I have found other ways to earn money.

(g) It has been by no means easy for me to meet my engagements punctually.
Add a question tag
It has been by no means easy for me to meet my engagements punctually, hasn't it?

(h) "But, my dear Nora–who could the man be?" From what happens later in the play, who is this man? (3marks)

Nora says there was no old gentleman√ at all. it was only something that she used to sit and imagine√, when she couldn't think of any way of procuring money√.

(i) "It was like being a man." What does this statement imply? (1mark)
It is the duty of a man to financially work for the family.

3. **Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow**.

They're all staring at me,
Right through me they can see.
I bet they are judging,
They know I'm not focusing.
"I can't do this," I tell myself.
There is no way,
The teacher calls my name,
And there is nothing I can say.

Now they are looking in my
direction.
They act like I have some kind of
infection.
Why am I the one who doesn't
understand?
This really isn't going as I planned.
I am a hard worker, don't they
know?
They are the ones who don't try,
I am the one about to cry.

The teacher sends me a dirty look.
I am reading everyone's mind like a
book.
They are laughing at me.
I black out and cannot see.
My face has gone completely
numb.
I'm the hard worker, not them.
I'm the hard worker, not him.

(a) Who is the persona in the poem? (2marks)

A school going student√ who is not understanding√ what he/she is being taught in class.

(b) What is the poem about? (5marks)

The poem is about a student√ who seems not to understand what he is being taught√. The rest of the students understand√. The student is unable to answer the question asked and the whole class turns to look at him and laughs at him√. The teacher is also unhappy with his inability√.

(c) The persona seems to be uncomfortable in class. Point out the indicators that prove this. (4marks)

- **The persona is not focusing.**
- **He is unable to answer question asked.**
- **Everyone laughs at him.**
- **The teacher gives him a dirty look.**
- **His face goes completely numb.**

(d) Discuss the speaker's tone in the poem? (3marks)

Consolatory. Since he doesn't understand things as the rest, she consoles himself by saying he is the one who works hard and not neither the teacher nor the students.

(e) Identify and illustrate **two** stylistic devices used in the poem. (4marks)

- **Rhetorical question. "**I am a hard worker, don't they know?"

- **Simile . …..reading everyone's mind like a book**

(f) My face has gone completely numb. (1mark)

Begin: completely…

Completely has my face gone numb.

(g) Give the poem a suitable title. (1mark)

Hard work/ hard worker

4. GRAMMAR

(a) Use the most appropriate form of the word in bracket to fill the blank. (3marks)

i. Food **frozen** for over five years tastes icky. (freeze)

ii. **Turning** the page of the book, I saw your name. (turn)

iii. If you go walking around the factory, ensure you have ……clothing on. (protect)
protective

(b) Rewrite according to the instruction without changing the meaning of the sentence. (4marks)

i. I will eat both the cake and the buns.
Begin: Not only…
Not only will I eat the cake but also the buns.

ii. I know she would prefer to play the drums to singing.
Use: …. rather….than
I know she would rather play the drums than sing.

iii. I do not want to loose my car.
Correct the error
I do not want to lose my car.

iv. Their all going to the cinema this weekend.
Correct the error
They're all going to the cinema this weekend.

(c) Fill in the most suitable preposition. (3marks)

i. Everyone was pleased ……your new job. **about**

ii. You can't be independent …….your parent until you find a job. **of**

iii. She is anxious ……reunite with her classmates. **to**

(d) Fill in the phrasal verb beginning with the correct form of the word in bracket. (3marks)

i. Quick! ……the bus. It is ready to leave. (get) **get on**

ii. It was warm inside so he …….his coat. (take) **took off**

iii. The firemen were able to ……..the fire in the mosque. (put) **put out**

(e) Explain two different meanings of the sentence: (2marks)

I saw the boy sitting in the library.

The boy was seated in the library.

I saw the boy while seated in the library.