



BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

FINAL TERM EXAMINATION (2024-25)

CLASS - IX

ENGLISH LITERATURE (PAPER – II)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers. The paper has **four** Sections. **Section A** is compulsory – All questions in Section A must be answered. You must attempt **one** question from each of the Sections **B, C** and **D** and **one** other question from any Section of your choice. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

(Attempt **all** questions from this Section.)

Question 1

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options. (Do not copy the question, write the correct option only.) [16]

- 1 What is the primary function of the train described in the poem 'The Night Mail' ?
 - a) To transport goods
 - b) To deliver mail
 - c) To carry passengers
 - d) To explore new territories

- 2 Why does Phatik's mother agree to send him with his uncle to Calcutta?
 - a) She believes Calcutta will improve his behavior.
 - b) She sees him as a burden and troublemaker.
 - c) She wants him to be educated in a city school.
 - d) She hopes he'll become close to his cousins.

- 3 Which of the following best describes Skimbleshanks' character based on the poem?
 - a) Lazy and indifferent
 - b) Meticulous and diligent
 - c) Forgetful and disorganised
 - d) Playful and mischievous

- 4 What unusual event occurred in Poncha Ghosh's bamboo grove, as discussed at Sripati Babu's meeting?
 - a) A meteor shower
 - b) Trees shedding leaves overnight
 - c) A sudden fire
 - d) Appearance of an unidentified creature

- 5 What is the significance of the date in the poem 'A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945'?
 - a) It was a peaceful day in Japan.
 - b) It was the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.
 - c) It was the day of a natural disaster in Tokyo.
 - d) It was the day Japan won the war.

- 6 Why was Oliver Twist's mother brought to the workhouse?
 - a) She was a known criminal
 - b) She was found lying in the street and was ill
 - c) She was seeking employment in the town
 - d) She was a runaway from a wealthy family

- 7 What feeling does the poet convey about his childhood memories in the poem 'I Remember, I Remember'?
 - a) Anger and regret.
 - b) Nostalgia and longing.
 - c) Fear and sadness.
 - d) Indifference and apathy.

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- 8 Why does Brutus ultimately decide to join the conspiracy against Caesar?
 a) He is persuaded by Cassius' personal grievances against Caesar.
 b) He is promised power and wealth by the conspirators.
 c) He wants revenge for Pompey's death.
 d) He fears that Caesar may become a tyrant if crowned.
- 9 Why does Calpurnia beg Caesar to stay home instead of going to the Senate?
 a) The priests tell her that the gods are angry.
 b) Brutus convinces her that Caesar is in danger.
 c) A soothsayer warns her about a bad omen.
 d) She has had a terrible dream predicting his death.
- 10 What is the central theme of the poem?
 a) The beauty of bonsai trees
 b) The importance of gardening skills
 c) The control and limitation imposed on natural growth
 d) The dangers of lightning strikes
- 11 What theme is highlighted in the story 'The Boy Who Broke the Bank' ?
 a) The Importance of Punctuality
 b) The Power of Rumours and Miscommunication
 c) The Role of Leadership in Crisis
 d) The Efficiency of Railway Operations
- 12 What does Artemidorus plan to do to warn Caesar?
 a) Tell Calpurnia so she can persuade him to stay home.
 b) Write a letter revealing the conspiracy and give it to Caesar.
 c) Send a messenger to his house with a warning.
 d) Confront him at the Senate and plead for his safety.
- 13 In Julius Caesar, Act 2, Scene 4, why is Portia anxious and uneasy?
 a) She saw a soothsayer warning Caesar again.
 b) She overheard the senators plotting against Caesar.
 c) She knows about the conspiracy and is worried about Brutus.
 d) She has a bad dream about Caesar's fate.
- 14 In Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 2, what warning does the Soothsayer give to Caesar?
 a) "Beware the Ides of March."
 b) "The gods have cursed your ambition."
 c) "A lion will prowl the streets of Rome."
 d) "Your closest friend will betray you"
- 15 Where is Seth Govind Ram holidaying when the crisis at the bank unfolds?
 a) Kashmir
 b) Pipalnagar
 c) A hill station
 d) A foreign country
- 16 What does the bonsai tree symbolise in the poem?
 a) Strength and resilience
 b) Restriction and suppression
 c) Natural beauty and grace
 d) A gardener's passion

SECTION B

(Answer *one or more* questions from this Section.)
DRAMA (Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

Read the extract given below answer the questions that follow:

BRUTUS

It must be by his death, and for my part I know no personal cause to spurn at him But for the general. He would be crowned. How that might change his nature, there's the question.

- (i) What internal conflict does Brutus face at the beginning of the Act? [3]
Why do the conspirators visit Brutus at his house?
What reason does Brutus give for not wanting to swear an oath with the conspirators?
- (ii) How does Portia try to prove her strength to Brutus? [3]
What does Brutus decide about killing Mark Antony?
Why does Brutus reject the idea of including Cicero in the conspiracy?
- (iii) What does Calpurnia dream about Caesar? [3]
Why does Caesar initially decide to stay home instead of going to the Senate?
How does Decius convince Caesar to go to the Senate despite Calpurnia's warnings?
- (iv) What does Artemidorus plan to do to warn Caesar? [3]
Why is Portia anxious and restless in Act 2, Scene 4?
What does the soothsayer plan to do in Act 2, Scene 4?
- (v) What does Ligarius say to Brutus when he joins the conspiracy? [4]
How does Caesar describe the idea of fear before leaving for the Senate?
What sacrifice do the augurers (priests) make, and what is their warning to Caesar?
How does Brutus justify the conspiracy against Caesar to himself?

Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Caesar: Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.

- (i) Why is Calpurnia fearful of Caesar going to the Senate? [3]
How does Calpurnia describe the omens she has observed?
How does Caesar respond to her fears initially?
- (ii) What is Caesar's perspective on fear and death? [3]
How does he contrast the actions of cowards and the valiant?
How does his philosophy impact his decision to go to the Senate?
- (iii) How does Decius reinterpret Calpurnia's dream? [3]
What additional incentive does Decius offer Caesar to encourage him?
How does Caesar react to Decius's reinterpretation of the dream?
- (iv) What traits does Caesar display when Calpurnia expresses her fears? [3]
How does his confidence affect his judgment?
Why does he ultimately decide to go to the Senate, despite several warnings?
- (v) How does Calpurnia's superstition clash with Caesar's view of fate? [4]
In what ways does Decius manipulate both Caesar's ego and fate?
How does this scene foreshadow the coming events in the play?
Why might Shakespeare include so many supernatural elements in this scene?

SECTION C

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest – ICSE Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the extract from Ruskin Bond's short story, ' The Boy who Broke the Bank ' given below and answer the questions that follow:

Nathu grumbled to himself as he swept the steps of the Pipalnagar Bank, owned by Seth Govind Ram. He used the small broom hurriedly and carelessly, and the dust, after rising in a cloud above his head settled down again on the steps. As Nathu was banging his pan against a dustbin, Sitaram, the washerman's son, passed by.

- (i) Who is Nathu? [3]
What was Sitaram doing when he passed by Nathu?
What job did Mrs Srivastava need a sweeper for?
- (ii) What did Mrs Bhushan and Mrs Srivastava discuss under the tamarind tree? [3]
How did the news of the bank's impending collapse spread throughout the bazaar?
Who was the first one to take action and rush to the bank?
- (iii) What did the elderly gentleman do when he heard the news? [3]
What was the reaction of the people when told to return the next day for their money?
How did Nathu react when he saw the bank the next morning?

- (iv) What was Sitaram's message to Nathu? [3]
 What did Mrs Bhushan find when she was looking for her husband?
 Where was Seth Govind Ram when the news of the bank's collapse spread?
- (v) Who was the first one to hear the news? [4]
 What did the manager of the bank tell the crowd?
 How did the crowd react?
 What did Nathu do when he heard the news of the bank's collapse?

Question 5

Read the extract from Rabindranath Tagore's short story, "The Home-coming" - A Heartfelt Tale of Longing and Transformation and answer the questions that follow:

Phatik Chakravorti was ringleader among the boys of the village. A new mischief got into his head. There was a heavy log lying on the mud-flat of the river waiting to be shaped into a mast for a boat. He decided that they should all work together to shift the log by main force from its place and roll it away. The owner of the log would be angry and surprised, and they would all enjoy the fun. Every one seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

- (i) What are the universal themes explored in the story? [3]
 How is Phatik Chakravorti described in the beginning of the story?
 What mischievous plan does Phatik come up with in the beginning?
- (ii) How does Makhan react to Phatik's plan? [3]
 What does Phatik do to try to outwit Makhan?
 Who arrives in the village and interrupts the boys' mischief?
- (iii) What relation does Bishamber have to Phatik's family? [3]
 Why does Phatik's mother want him to go to Calcutta with Bishamber?
 How does Phatik feel about going to Calcutta with his uncle?
- (iv) Describe Phatik's experiences in his aunt's house in Calcutta. [3]
 How does Phatik's aunt and cousins treat him?
 What challenges does Phatik face academically in Calcutta?
- (v) How does the story explore the concept of responsibility? [4]
 What is the impact of Phatik's mischievous actions on his life?
 How does the story depict Phatik's emotional journey?
 How does the story highlight the tension between urban and rural life?

SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

(Treasure Chest – ICSE Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6

Read the extract from Marge Piercy's poem, 'A Work of Artifice' given below and answer the questions that follow :

With living creatures one must begin very early to dwarf their growth:
 the bound feet, the crippled brain, the hair in curlers, the hands you love to touch.

- (i) What is the natural potential of the bonsai tree in the poem? [3]
 Who is responsible for shaping the bonsai tree's growth?
 What event is mentioned that could have damaged the tree in the wild?
- (ii) How tall is the bonsai tree in the poem? [3]
 What does the gardener do to the bonsai tree every day?
 What message does the gardener convey to the bonsai tree?
- (iii) Which specific examples of human restriction are mentioned in the poem? [3]
 What does the bonsai tree metaphorically represent in the poem?
 What does the phrase "one must begin very early" suggest in the poem?
- (iv) What is the significance of the title "Bonsai"? [3]
 How does the pot serve as a symbol in the poem?
 What is ironic about the gardener's words to the tree?
- (v) What is the tone of the poem? [4]
 What broader societal issue does the poem address?
 How does the poem suggest that suppression is enforced?
 What does the reference to "the hands you love to touch" imply?

Question 7

Read the extract from T.S. Eliot's short poem , ' Skimbleshanks : The Railway Cat ' given below and answer the questions that follow

He gives one flash of his glass-green eyes
And the signal goes "All Clear!"
And we're off at last for the northern part
Of the Northern Hemisphere!

- (i) What time is the Night Mail ready to depart? [3]
Why are the guards and porters searching for Skimbleshanks?
Where has Skimbleshanks been before he appears at the rear of the train?
- (ii) What color are Skimbleshanks' eyes? [3]
What happens as soon as Skimbleshanks appears?
Which part of the world does the train travel toward?
- (iii) What role does Skimbleshanks play on the train? [3]
Who does Skimbleshanks supervise on the train?
How does Skimbleshanks establish control over the passengers?
- (iv) Why do people behave quietly when Skimbleshanks is around? [3]
What is written on the door of each passenger's den?
What feature allows passengers to adjust the brightness of their berth?
- (v) What does the guard ask passengers about their tea? [4]
What does Skimbleshanks drink while keeping watch at night?
Where does Skimbleshanks greet the stationmaster?
How does Skimbleshanks signal a farewell to passengers at the end?
