



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2023-24)
CLASS – IX
ENGLISH LITERATURE

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 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 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 answers only.) [16]

- (i) Which assertion tells us that sometimes Bonku Babu did get resentful?
 - (a) "Bonku Babu did not get upset by any of this."
 - (b) 'Only sometimes he cleared his throat and said Shame on you boys!'
 - (c) "He told them about his life in Africa."
 - (d) "He told them, I have been to the North Pole."
- (ii) What does the Soothsayer enunciate to Caesar?
 - (a) "Beware the Ides of March"
 - (b) "Never trust Cassius"
 - (c) "Pursue the Kingship"
 - (d) "Your toupee is on backward"
- (iii) Select the option that shows the correct connection between statements (1) and (2) from 'Oliver Asks For More.'
 - 1. The boys were given three meals a day, but they were still always hungry
 - 2. Because the soup they were given was never enough.
 - (a) 1 is the contradiction for 2
 - (b) 1 is an example of 2
 - (c) 1 is independent of 2
 - (d) 1 is a cause of 2
- (iv) What does Brutus worry about the three shouts he hears?
 - (a) The crowd has become intoxicated and dangerous.
 - (b) A prisoner has been executed.
 - (c) The war has been approved.
 - (d) The people have made Caesar their king.
- (v) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order
 - 1. The master stood by the pot, and the soup was served.
 - 2. She lifted her head from the pillow.
 - 3. She pressed her cold white lips to its face and then fell back.
 - 4. He took the boy away and shut him in a dark room.
 - (a) 1, 2, 3, 4
 - (b) 2, 3, 1, 4
 - (c) 1, 3, 2, 4
 - (d) 3, 1, 4, 2
- (vi) During the games at the first of the play Cicero makes a speech (even though the reader never knows what the speech is about). In what language is the speech described as being delivered?
 - (a) Greek
 - (b) Italian
 - (c) Latin
 - (d) English
- (vii) Why do Flavius and Marullus demand to disrobe the images from the statues in the opening scene?
 - (a) They were trying to stop the Feast of Lupercal.
 - (b) They did not want to resist Caesar's dangerously growing power.
 - (c) They were allergic to the flowers.
 - (d) They were trying to punish the Roman commoners.
- (viii) What is the significance of the line, "The cold and official and the heart's outpouring"?
 - 1. It highlights the contrast between formal and emotional letters.
 - 2. It represents the different handwriting of different individuals.
 - 3. It emphasizes the emotional impact of the Night Mail's deliveries.
 - 4. It suggests that official letters lack sincerity and warmth.
 - (a) 4 and 3
 - (b) 1 and 4
 - (c) 3 and 1
 - (d) 2 and 4
- (ix) What ensued on Kali Puja night?
 - (a) The boys lit fireworks.
 - (b) The boys put glue on his chair.

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- (c) The boys lit a chasing rocket and set it off to chase him.
 (d) Bonku Babu continued teaching.
 (x) How does the Night Mail's journey reflect the concept of time?
 (a) It shows that time is constant and unchanging.
 (b) It emphasizes the importance of punctuality and schedules.
 (c) It suggests that time is subjective and varies for different people.
 (d) It highlights the endlessness of time and its ability to connect people.
 (xi) Which of the following unusual scenes was NOT witnessed by Casca in Scene III of Act I?
 (a) A man whose left hand was on fire but did not burn.
 (b) A lion at the Capitol looked at him but did not attack.
 (c) One-hundred frightened women who saw men on fire walking the streets.
 (d) A serpent breathing fire in the marketplace.
 (xii) What does the flash of glass-green eyes suggest?
 (a) That there is something suspicious so the train should not leave.
 (b) That there is nothing suspicious so the train can now leave.
 (c) That the search task is still not complete and they should wait for some more time before the train leaves.
 (d) None of the above-mentioned.
 (xiii) How does Skimbleshanks establish control over the train?
 (a) By searching all the people and their belongings thoroughly.
 (b) By not allowing anyone to move out of their seat.
 (c) By patrolling regularly in all the compartments.
 (d) All the above-mentioned.
 (xiv) What are some of the major themes explored in 'Julius Caesar'?
 1. Betrayal
 2. Love
 3. Forgiveness
 4. Ambition
 (a) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 3
 (b) 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 4
 (xv) Bonku Babu felt very uncomfortable when
 (a) The creature tried to poke him.
 (b) The creature spoke to him.
 (c) The creature examined him by pressing his arms and legs with his finger.
 (d) The creature walked slowly towards Bonku Babu.
 (xvi) Which of the following is NOT among the strange sights Casca reports to Cicero?
 (a) A solar eclipse. (c) Men on fire, walking through the streets.
 (b) Heaven dropping fire. (d) A lion in the Capitol.

SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

DRAMA

(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

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

*You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!
 O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,
 Knew you not Pompey?.....*

- (i) Who expresses these words and to whom? [3]
 (ii) Why and how did the speaker ridicule the commoners? [3]
 (iii) What did Marullus mandate the people to do? [3]
 (iv) How does Flavius nudge the people to be guilty of the wrong they have done? [3]
 (v) What did Flavius want Marullus to accomplish and what would he do? Why? [4]

Question 3

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

*Cicero: Why, saw you anything more wonderful?
 Casca: A common slave – you know him well by sight –
 Held up his left hand, which did flame and burn
 Like twenty torches join'd, and yet his hand,
 Not sensible of fire, remain 'dunscorch'd.*

- (i) Relate in your own words the 'wonderful' sights seen by Casca as given in the extract. [3]
 (ii) Excluding the sight referred to in (i) above, clarify three unnatural sights that Casca narrates after this extract. [3]
 (iii) What does Casca conclude about the bizarre events? [3]

- (iv) In what way is Casca's belief a contrast to the one expressed by Cicero about these events? [3]
 (v) What impact do these quirky things have on Caesar and on the audience? [4]

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE

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

Question 4

Read the extract from 'Oliver Asks for More' by Charles Dickens and answer the questions that follow:

The doctor raised the dead women's left hand.

'The usual story,' he said. 'I see that she has no ring on her finger.

She wasn't married. Good night!'

He went home to his dinner.

The old woman sat down on a chair in front of the fire and began to dress the baby.

She dressed him in the very old clothes used for babies who were born in the workhouse.

- (i) When the doctor raised the young woman's hand, what did he notice? What does this indicate about the young woman? [3]
 (ii) What did the older men do after the doctor went home? What does this say about life in the workhouse? [3]
 (iii) Who gave the name to the new baby? What logic did he follow while naming the babies? [3]
 (iv) Oliver was an orphan "born into a world, which had no love or pity for him" Give an example from the extract that Oliver experienced, a lack of love. [3]
 (v) What was the condition of children in England as shown in the story? [4]

Question 5

Read the extract from the extract 'Bonku Babu's Friend' by Satyajit Ray and answer the question that follow:

'Bonku Babu peered through the glass, and felt all his hair rise.

Could this be true? Could he really believe his eyes? Before him stretched an endless expanse of snow, dotted with large hillocks, also covered with ice and snow. Above him, against a deep blue sky, all the colours of a rainbow were forming different patterns, changing every second. The Aurora Borealis! What was that? An igloo. There was a group of polar bears. Wait, there was another animal. A strange, peculiar creature.....

- (i) What did Bonku Babu presume he wanted to witness? [3]
 (ii) What was 'the glass'? Who gave it? Why? [3]
 (iii) After watching through the tube for some time, why could not Bonku Babu bear to watch anymore? [3]
 (iv) Which was the strange peculiar creature? What more did he discover about the peculiar creature? [3]
 (v) When Ang mentioned Brazil what was the first thought that came to Bonku Babu? What does it show about Bonku Babu's character? [4]

SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

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

Question 6

Read the following extract from the poem 'The Night Mail' by W. H. Auden and answer the questions that follow:

Dawn freshens, the climb is done.

Down towards Glasgow she descends,

Towards the steam tugs yelping down a glade of cranes,

Towards the fields of apparatus, the furnaces

Set on the dark plain like gigantic chessmen

All Scotland waits for her:

In the dark glens, beside the pale-green sea lochs

Men long for news.

- (i) What is meant by 'Her climb is done'? Where is she now headed towards? [3]
 (ii) Which part of speech is used in the first two lines of the extract? How does the poem portray, the anticipation and longing associated with receiving letters? [3]
 (iii) What themes does the poem explore regarding communication and human connection? [3]
 (iv) How does "Night Mail" address the fear of being forgotten? [3]
 (v) Explain in your own words the meaning of 'All Scotland waits for her'. [4]

Question 7

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

There's a whisper down the line at 11.39

When the Night Mail's ready to depart,

Saying "Skimble where is Skimble has he gone to hunt the thimble?

We must find him or the train can't start."

- (i) What's the whisper down the line? Who all are whispering? [3]
 (ii) Who is Skimble? What work does he do? [3]
 (iii) What does "hunt the thimble" mean? What was Skimble doing at this time? [3]
 (iv) Why can't the train start without Skimbleshanks? How did the train finally start? [3]
 (v) Did it depend on time? How did the scene at the train change after Skimble appeared? [4]
