



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2025-26)

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 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

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below. (Please do not copy the questions, simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.) [16]

1. 'A man no mightier than myself or me, in personal action, yet prodigious grown':

Who is being described, and by whom?

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Brutus, by Cinna | (c) Caesar, by Cassius |
| (b) Cassius, by Caesar | (d) Antony, by Cassius |

2. How old was Ang?

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (a) 900 | (c) 833 |
| (b) 1000 | (d) 933 |

3. Where is Oliver brought up?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) in a prosperous family | (c) in a doctor's house |
| (b) in a family living in a village | (d) in a workhouse |

4. What is the central metaphor in the poem 'A Work of Artifice'?

- (a) A tree representing nature's beauty
 (b) A tree symbolising a woman's restrained potential
 (c) A magician performing a trick
 (d) A garden full of bonsai trees

5. Why had Cassius been walking about the streets during the storm without covering himself?

- (a) He wanted to be injured by the storm
 (b) To expose himself to the dangers of the storm
 (c) To show everyone how brave he was
 (d) He wanted to see the thunder and the lightning

6. What changes does Ang bring about in Bonku Babu?

- (a) Teaches him to become an explorer
 (b) Makes him realise his own worth
 (c) Convinces him to move to another planet
 (d) Teaches him scientific formulas

7. The line "there's a whisper down the line at eleven thirty nine" creates an image of:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Fear and darkness | (c) Urgency and anticipation |
| (b) Speed and excitement | (d) Calm and relaxation |

8. The poem 'A Work of Artifice' suggests that limiting growth is done:

- (a) Out of love and care
 (b) By natural forces
 (c) Intentionally and systematically
 (d) Through environmental constraints

9. How is Bonku Babu portrayed at the beginning of the story?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Arrogant and proud | (c) Timid and submissive |
| (b) Cheerful and confident | (d) Aggressive and rude |

10. "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things." Who says these words to whom?

- (a) Flavius to the commoners
 (b) Marullus to the commoners
 (c) The cobbler to Flavius
 (d) Marullus to the carpenters

11. What was the profession of Mr. Sowerberry? He made ____.

Python
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- (a) Buildings
 - (b) Utensils
 - (c) Coffins
 - (d) Shoes
12. Who is the “gardener” in the poem A Work of Artifice symbolic of?
- (a) A loving father
 - (b) Nature’s helper
 - (c) Society or patriarchal control
 - (d) A monk in a temple
13. What is Cassius trying to imply when he tells Brutus “’Tis true this god did shake with fever in Spain”?
- (a) That Caesar is an ordinary man
 - (b) Caesar has fever
 - (c) Caesar has kingly qualities
 - (d) Caesar can live like all other humans
14. What motivated the boys to choose someone to ask for more food?
- (a) Hunger and growing frustration
 - (b) A leader to embolden the matter
 - (c) An order from the officer
 - (d) Curiosity about the master’s reaction
15. According to Caesar, what kind of men have lean and hungry look?
- (a) Brave men
 - (b) Loyal men
 - (c) Dangerous men
 - (d) Shy and cunning men
16. Why does Skimbleshanks stop ‘here and there’?
- (a) to ensure that there is not even a flea on board
 - (b) to ensure that all passengers are happy
 - (c) The passengers told him to do so
 - (d) The station master told him to do so

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 follows:

Flavius: *See whether their basest metal be not moved; they vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness. Go, you down that way towards the Capitol; This way will I.*

- (a) Who is Flavius speaking of? What does “basest metal” mean? [3]
- (b) What had been said to make their basest metal be moved? Give two examples. [3]
- (c) What, according to Flavius, were they guilty of? Did all these people think they were guilty? [3]
- (d) Why does Flavius ask Marullus to go downwards towards the Capitol? What was the Capitol? [3]
- (e) Why did Flavius and Marullus want these people off the streets? What did they hope to achieve by doing this? What does this show about their attitude towards Caesar? Give any two reasons. [4]

Question 3

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

CASSIUS:

You are dull, Casca, and those sparks of life that should be in a Roman you do want, or else you use not. You look pale and

gaze, And put on fear and cast yourself in wonder, To see the strange impatience of the heavens; But if you would consider the true cause why all these fires, why all these gliding ghosts, why all these birds and beasts...

- (a) What has brought Casca and Cassius together? Where are they? When Cassius had entered the scene, What comment had Casca made about him? [3]
- (b) Write three reasons why Cassius calls Casca “dull and without the qualities a Roman should have”? [3]
- (c) What according to Cassius is the true cause of the supernatural happenings of that night? [3]
- (d) Why do Romans now lack the heroic spirit of their forefathers? What have they become now according to Cassius? [3]
- (e) Cassius is a cunning manipulator. Do you agree with this statement? Give two reasons to support your response. [4]

SECTION C

(Answer **one** or **more** questions from this section)

PROSE – SHORT STORIES

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

Question 4

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

"I have been watching your planet for sometime. It seems to me that those who are gentle and kind, are the ones who are insulted and ridiculed. Is that not true?"

- Who is the speaker of the above lines? Why has he come to Earth? What has happened just before this extract? [3]
- Why does the speaker say he is impressed with Bonku Babu? What qualities does he admire in him? [3]
- What does the speaker's observation about Earth reveal about society? Give reasons. [3]
- How does this encounter affect Bonku Babu personally? What does he do after this meeting? [3]
- Discuss the contrast between the personality of the speaker and Bonku Babu. [4]

Question 5

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

"What?" said the master at last in a quiet voice.

"Please, sir," repeated Oliver, "I want some more."

The master hit Oliver with his spoon, then seized him and cried for help. Mr. Bumble rushed into the room, and the master told him what Oliver had said.

- Who was the master in the extract, and what was his role at the workhouse? [3]
- Why did Oliver ask for more food, and how did the master react? [3]
- What was Mr. Bumble's reaction to Oliver's request? And what was the punishment given to him? [3]
- What final decision was made to get rid of Oliver? [3]
- What can you conclude from the story about the treatment of the poor children in Victorian England? State a word or a line from the text to prove your point of view. [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 extract from the poem **'A Work of Artifice'** by **Marge Piercy** and answer the questions that follow:

*Everyday as he
whittles back the branches
the gardener croons
"It is your nature
to be small and cozy,
domestic and weak."*

- Who is 'he' in the poem, what does he represent, and what is his role? [3]
- In what tone does the gardener speak? To whom does he speak? In what way is he wrong? [3]
- What does the word "croons" mean? What does it imply? [3]
- What does the gardener say about early pruning later in the poem? [3]
- The poet refers to 'bound feet', 'crippled brain', 'hair in curlers'. What do these words suggest? [4]

Question 7

Read the extract from the poem **'Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat'** by **T.S. Eliot** and answer the questions that follow:

*You may say that by and large
It is Skimble who's in charge
Of the Sleeping Car Express
From the driver and the guards
To the bagmen playing cards
He will supervise them all, more or less.*

- Who is Skimble? Where was he when the train was about to start? [3]
- Who all were searching for Skimble and why? [3]
- Mention three ways in which he controls everything on the train? [3]
- Which actions of the cat remind you of a dictator? Why does the cat dislike 'hilarity' and 'noisy merriment'? [3]
- What does the cat do when the train reaches its destination? What kind of character is Skimble, according to you? [4]
