

FINAL EXAMINATION: 2024-2025

CLASS: IX

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

NAME OF THE STUDENT:

MAX.MARKS:80

DATE:

TIME: 2HOURS

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NOTE: 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

[16]

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

1. What does Casca say he saw when he was walking towards the Capitol?
 - a. A lion that attacked him.
 - b. A bird of night that sat on the market-place.
 - c. A group of women who were transformed in fear.
 - d. A common slave whose hand was on fire but not burning.
2. What is the reason for Brutus' troubled countenance?
 - a. He is worried about the upcoming race.
 - b. He is upset with Cassius
 - c. He is dealing with personal issues.
 - d. He is angry with Caesar.
3. Who does Portia send to the Senate House to check on Brutus?
 - a. Artemidorus
 - b. Cicero
 - c. Cinna
 - d. Lucius
4. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from William Shakespeare's drama 'Julius Caesar' Act 2, Scene 1 in the correct order.
 1. Brutus joins the conspiracy against Caesar.
 2. Cassius convinces Brutus to join the conspiracy.
 3. Brutus ponders over the consequences of Caesar's ambition.
 4. Cassius reveals the plan to assassinate Caesar.
 - a. 1,2,3,4
 - b. 3,4,2,1
 - c. 4,3,1,2
 - d. 2,4,1,3



5. What reason does Caesar initially give for not going to the Senate?
 - a. It is simply his will to stay home.
 - b. He is ill.
 - c. He is afraid.
 - d. He needs more time.

6. What does Marullus compare the commoners to?
 - a. Blocks & stones
 - b. Senseless things
 - c. Hard hearts
 - d. All of the above

7. Making a beeline for his office and cheque book means.....
 - a. Creating unnecessary chaos
 - b. Grumbling all the time
 - c. Going straight to one's destination
 - d. Creating confusions

8. Which figure of speech is used in the line "The fractured ribs of buildings, gaping, fell" from Vikram Seth's poem 'A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945'?
 - a. Personification
 - b. Irony
 - c. Alliteration
 - d. Simile

9. Which period of man's life is portrayed more positively in the poem 'I Remember I Remember'?
 - a. Adulthood
 - b. School days
 - c. Childhood
 - d. Senior years

10. Which of the following is NOT performed by Phatik in the story?
 - a. He rushed at Makhan and hammered him with blows.
 - b. He decided that they should all work together to shift the log.
 - c. He took interest in studies and was the first one to reach his school.
 - d. He decided to go back to his village on his own.

11. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements 1 and 2 from Charles Dickens' short story 'Oliver asks for more'.

Statement 1: 'Please sir,' repeated Oliver, 'I want some more.'

Statement 2: The next morning a notice appeared on the workhouse gate. Five pounds were offered to anybody who would take Oliver Twist.

 - a. (1) is true and (2) is false
 - b. (2) is true and (1) is false
 - c. (1) is the cause of (2)
 - d. (1) and (2) are independent of each other.

12. What evidence from the poem suggests the Night Mail is reliable?
 - a. It carries letters for both rich and poor.
 - b. It travels through diverse landscape
 - c. It arrives on time despite challenging terrain.
 - d. It delivers mail to various destinations.

13. What did the poet see in the forms of people shuffling towards the hospital?
 - a. Ghosts and scarecrows
 - b. People with burns on their bodies
 - c. People in pain
 - d. None of the above

14. How does the poet characterize the bonsai tree's nature?
- a. Strong and resilient
b. Domestic and weak
c. Wild and untamed
d. Beautiful and majestic
15. 'What you call rags I call _____.' Complete the sentence as it is said in 'Model Millionaire'.
- a. Poverty
b. Romance
c. Elegance
d. Picturesque
16. Which word best describes Skimbleshanks' demeanour throughout the poem?
- a. Lethargic
b. Disinterested
c. Careless
d. Energetic

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:

Cassius: Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus, and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their fates:
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars
But in ourselves that we are underlings.
Brutus and Caesar: What should be in that 'Caesar'?
Why should that name be sounded more than yours?

[3]

- a. What is the mood of Cassius in the excerpt? What is the relevance of his words to Brutus?
- b. Explain the implication behind Cassius' assertion that "we petty men walk under his huge legs and peep about to find ourselves dishonourable graves". [3]
- c. What is the meaning of the phrase "masters of their fates"? Why does Cassius blame themselves for being "underlings"? [3]
- d. What is the significance of Cassius' statement "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars"? How does Cassius appeal to Brutus' sense of agency and pride? [3]
- e. What strategy does Cassius employ to persuade Brutus? Explore the emotional undercurrents in Cassius' words as he addresses Brutus. How does his tone reveal his inner turmoil and conflicting motivations? [4]

Question 3

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

Brutus: 'Tis good. Go to the gate; somebody knocks.
(Exit Lucius)

Since Cassius first did whet me against Caesar,
I have not slept.
Between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream:
The Genius and the mortal instruments

Are then in council; and the state of man
Like to a little Kingdom, suffers then
The nature of an insurrection.

- a. Who has come to meet Brutus? How have they disguised themselves? [3]
- b. "Between the acting of a dreadful thing and the first motion, all the interim is like a phantasma or a hideous dream." Explain the statement with reference to the context. [3]
- c. What does Brutus say about conspiracy a little later? How does he advise conspiracy to hide itself? [3]
- d. Who suggests that they should take an oath? What is Brutus' response to this suggestion? What reason does he give for his response? [3]
- e. Later two persons' names are suggested for joining their cause by Cassius and Metellus Cimber. Who are those two persons? What was Brutus' opinion regarding each one of them? [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 by Rabindranath Tagore's short story, 'The Homecoming' given below and answer the questions that follow:

It was just at this critical juncture that the grey-haired stranger arrived. He asked what the matter was. Phatik looked sheepish and ashamed. Bishamber kindly offered to take Phatik of his sister's hands and educate him with his own children in Calcutta. The widowed mother readily agreed. When his uncle asked Phatik, if he would like to go to Calcutta with him, his joy, new, no bound and he said "oh yes, Uncle! "In a way that made it quite clear that he meant it.

- a. What is the critical juncture being mentioned? Why did Phatik look sheepish? [3]
- b. In what way did Bishamber help Phatik's mother? How did she react to this? Can she be justified in her feelings? [3]
- c. What is said about Phatik's eagerness to get away? How did the mother feel about this? [3]
- d. Trace the changes that came over in Phatik from the beginning to the end. [3]
- e. What major themes are dealt with in the story? How is 'The Homecoming' an apt title for the story? Comment on the ending of the story? [4]

Question 5

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

Deep Chand, who was cutting the hair of an elderly gentleman, was so startled that his hand shook and he nicked his customer's right ear. The customer yelped with pain and distress: pain, because of the cut and distress because of the awful news he had just heard. With one side of his neck still unshaven, he sped across the road to the general merchant's store, where there was a telephone. He dialled Seth Govind Ram's number. The Seth was not at home. Where was he, then?

- a. Why was Deep Chand startled? How did the elderly customer react? [3]
- b. What did the elderly gentleman come to know about the owner of the bank? What speculation did he form after this? [3]

- c. How the market was affected that day? What surprising things happened with the beggar? [3]
- d. What were the speculations about the Seth? What does this show of the inhabitants of the place? [3]
- e. Comment on the crises that shook Pipal Nagar? How does the story end? What truth is brought out by the story? [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 Vikram Seth's poem 'A Doctor's Journal Entry on August 6, 1945' given below and answer the questions that follow:

The morning stretched calm, beautiful, and warm.
 Sprawling half-clad, I gazed out at the form
 Of shimmering leaves and shadows. Suddenly
 A strong flash, then another, startled me.
 I saw the old stone lantern brightly lit.
 Magnesium flares? While I debated it,
 The roof, the walls and, as it seemed, the world
 Collapsed in timber and debris, dust swirled
 Around me- in the garden now- and, weird,
 My drawers and undershirt disappeared.

- a. Who is the speaker? Where was he at the moment? What pleased him? [3]
- b. What happened suddenly? What thought came across the speaker's mind? What did the speaker notice was missing? [3]
- c. What is the significance of the old stone lantern being lit before the event? How does this event disrupt the initial calmness and beauty established in the opening lines? [3]
- d. Describe the condition of the speaker from being inside the house to suddenly finding himself in the garden. What effect does this transition have on the reader's perception of the events and the speaker's experience? [3]
- e. What is the main emotion conveyed in the poem? How does the poem evoke empathy in the readers? What does the poem suggest about the long-term consequences of war? [4]

Question 7

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

"Every day as he
 Whittles back the branches
 the gardener croons, It is
 your nature to be small
 and cozy, domestic and
 weak; how lucky, little
 tree, to have a pot to
 grow in."

- a. Analyse the gardener's perspective as reflected in the lines "It is your nature to be small and cosy, domestic and weak." What does this reveal about the gardener's mindset and attitude towards the bonsai tree? [3]

- b. Discuss the significance of the gardener's crooning while whittling back the branches of the bonsai tree. What emotions or intentions might be conveyed through this action? [3]
- c. Examine the portrayal of weakness and vulnerability in relation to the bonsai tree. How does the gardener's perception of the tree's nature impact its treatment and ultimate form. [3]
- d. Reflect on the phrase "how lucky, little tree, to have a pot to grow in." What does this statement suggest about the gardener's perspective on the tree's circumstances? [3]
- e. Explain the theme of confinement and domestication in the poem. How does the presence of the pot shape the bonsai tree's growth and existence [4]

THE END