

# HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION: 2024-2025

CLASS: IX

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

NAME OF THE STUDENT: .....

MAX.MARKS:80

DATE: .....

TIME: 2 HOURS

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.)

- What is the profession of the first citizen?
  - Farmer
  - Tailor
  - Cobbler
  - Carpenter
- How many times was the crown offered to Caesar?
  - Three
  - Four
  - Five
  - Six
- "Upon the word, Accoutred as I was, plunged in"  
Who is 'I' in the above line?
  - Brutus
  - Caesar
  - Cassius
  - Flavius
- When Antony says, "Fear him not, Caesar; he's not dangerous;" he refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Casca
  - Brutus
  - Cassius
  - Marullus
- Why did Casca not laugh when Caesar fainted?
  - He was afraid of Caesar.
  - He feared that the people would beat him.
  - For fear of breathing in the bad air.
  - He feared that he would also faint.
- "I know where I will wear this dagger then;". Where would Cassius wear the dagger?
  - In his own heart.
  - He would murder Caesar with that dagger.
  - He would kill Mark Antony.
  - He would kill all the commoners.

7. Which of the following statements is NOT true about Skimbleshanks, the Railway Cat?
- He examined the faces of the travellers.
  - He established control by a regular patrol.
  - He did not approve of hilarity and riot.
  - He had glass-red eyes.
8. "Birds turn their heads as she approaches", which figure of speech is used in this line from the poem 'The Night Mail' by W. H. Auden?
- Simile
  - Metaphor
  - Alliteration
  - Personification
9. What does the Night Mail bring?
- Cheques
  - Postal orders
  - Letters
  - All of the above
10. Where does Skimbleshanks walk up and down the station?
- Crewe
  - Carlisle
  - Dumfries
  - Gallowgate
11. What kind of tree was planted by the poet's brother in the poem 'I Remember, I Remember' by Thomas Hood?
- Laburnum
  - Lily
  - Neem
  - Lilacs
12. How old was Ang?
- 800 years old
  - 300 years old
  - 833 years old
  - 803 years old
13. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from Charles Dickens' short story, 'Oliver Asks for More' in the correct order.
- Oliver was a prisoner in a dark, cold room for a whole week.
  - Mr. Sowerberry prepared the coffins for the two women who had died the previous night.
  - The doctor put the child in her arms. She pressed her cold white lips to its face, and then fell back.
  - The old woman sat down on a chair in front of the fire and began to dress the baby.
- 4, 3, 2, 1
  - 3, 4, 1, 2
  - 1, 4, 3, 2
  - 2, 1, 4, 3
14. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from Charles Dickens' short story, 'Oliver Asks for More'.
- Statement 1:** Oliver stood up from the table, went to the master with his bowl and spoon in his hands and asked for more soup.
- Statement 2:** Mr Bumble was a fat, healthy man but he went very pale. He looked with surprise at the small boy.
- (1) is true and (2) is false.
  - (1) is false and (2) is true.
  - (1) is the cause for (2).
  - (1) and (2) are independent of each other.

15. What did Hughie's father bequeath to him?
  - a. A cavalry sword.
  - b. A History of the Peninsular War in fifteen volumes.
  - c. Both a and b
  - d. Two hundred pounds a year.
  
16. According to Alan Trevor, the only people a painter should know are the people who are...
  - a. Beautiful
  - b. An artistic pleasure to look at
  - c. An intellectual repose to talk to
  - d. All of the above

### 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:

Hence! Home, you idle creatures get you home:  
Is this a holiday? What! Know you not,  
Being mechanical, you ought not walk  
Upon a labouring day without the sign  
Of your profession? Speak, what trade art thou?

- a. Describe the circumstances in which the above conversation takes place. Where does the scene take place? Who all are present in this scene? (3)
- b. Who are the 'idle creatures'? Who addresses them as such? Why? (3)
- c. What does the speaker want them to do? What makes the speaker ask if it is a holiday? (3)
- d. Explain the phrases: 'being mechanical' and 'sign of your profession'. (3)
- e. What is the profession of the second citizen? Why does he refer to himself as a surgeon? What does 'I recover them' mean here? (4)

#### Question 3

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

**CASSIUS:** Now could I, Casca, name to thee a man  
Most like this dreadful night,  
That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars  
As doth the lion in the Capitol;  
A man no mightier than thyself, or me,  
In personal action, yet prodigious grown,  
And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.

- a. Where does Cassius meet Casca? Describe Casca's state as he enters here? How does Cassius describe the night? (3)
- b. What does Cassius claim he has done? Why is Casca shocked? (3)
- c. Who is the 'man' referred to in the above lines? To what is he compared? What does Cassius want to convey through the comparison? (3)
- d. How does Cassius interpret the storm? In what sense has this man grown "prodigious" and "fearful as these strange eruptions," according to Cassius? (3)
- e. Describe the unnatural sights that Casca mentions. (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 Oscar Wilde's short story, 'The Model Millionaire' given below and answer the questions that follow:

The beggar himself was standing on a raised platform in a corner of the studio. He was a wizened old man, with a face like wrinkled parchment, and a most piteous expression. Over his shoulders was flung a coarse brown cloak, all tears and tatters; his thick boots were patched and cobbled, and with one hand he leant on a rough stick, while with the other he held out his battered hat for alms.

- Describe the beggar in Alan Trevor's studio. How did the beggar look? What was in his hand for alms? (3)
- Who is Alan Trevor? What was he doing when Hughie came to see him? Where was the beggar standing? (3)
- Who came to call Alan? Where did he go? Who were left in the studio? (3)
- When Alan goes out what does the beggar man do? What was Hughie's opinion about the payment given to the models? (3)
- How did Hughie help the beggar? Who scolded Hughie for helping the beggar? Did the beggar really need his help? Who was the beggar? (4)

#### Question 5

Read the extract by Satyajit Ray's short story, 'Bonku Babu's Friend' given below and answer the questions that follow:

What! This creature, barely four feet tall, with such thin limbs and weird face, was superior to man? Bonku Babu nearly burst out laughing. Ang read his mind immediately. "There's no need to be sceptical. I can prove it. How many languages do you know?"

- Where did Bonku Babu meet Ang? Who was Ang? How did he look? (3)
- What did Bonku Babu fail to digest? How did Ang react? (3)
- How many languages did Ang know? How many languages did Bonku Babu know? What more did Ang tell about himself? (3)
- What did Ang show to Bonku Babu? How were they useful? (3)
- What advice did Ang give to Bonku Babu? What was its impact? (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 W.H. Auden's poem 'The Night Mail' given below and answer the questions that follow:

Birds turn their heads as she approaches,  
Stare from the bushes at her blank- faced coaches.  
Sheep-dogs cannot turn her course;

This slumber on with paws across.  
In the farm she passes no one wakes,  
But a jug in the bedroom gently shakes.

- a. How does the mail train start its journey? Where is the train heading? Through which regions does the train pass? (3)
- b. 'Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches'.  
Which figure of speech is used in the above line? How do birds and animals react to the train's arrival? (3)
- c. How do the sleeping farm owners react as the train arrives? Why? (3)
- d. What kind of letters does the train carry? What is its destination? How do the people wait for the train? (3)
- e. The poem shows an immediate shift in time thereafter? What is that shift? In what way does the poet emphasise on human connections? (4)

#### Question 7

Read the extract from poem 'Skimblehanks: The Railway Cat' given below and answer the questions that follow:

But you saw him at Dumfries, where he speaks to the police  
If there's anything they ought to know about:  
When you get to Gallowgate there you do not have to wait-  
For Skimblehanks will help you to get out!  
He gives you a wave of his long brown tail  
Which says: "I'll see you again!  
You'll meet without fail on the Midnight Mail  
The Cat of the Railway Train."

- a. Who is Skimble? What causes commotion among all the passengers and the railway crew earlier in the poem? (3)
- b. What does Skimble do at Dumfries station? Why? What does he do at Carlisle? (3)
- c. When does the train reach its destination? Name the first and last stations of the Midnight Mail? (3)
- d. Once the passengers fall asleep what does he do? How does he keep himself fresh and bright during the watches of the night? (3)
- e. How does Skimble perform his task as a supervisor? How does he bid goodbye to the passengers? What does the wave of the long brown tail mean? (4)

END

