



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2024
ENGLISH LITERATURE
CLASS – IX

TIME: 2 Hours

MM: 80

SECTION-A

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)

Q 1) Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below: [16]

(Please do not copy the question – simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.)

- Why do Cassius and Cicero want Brutus to join the conspiracy?
 - He is a skilled orator.
 - Brutus is Caesar's close friend.
 - He is a powerful military general.
 - He is highly respected by the people of Rome.
- According to Casca, why were Flavius and Marullus silenced?
 - They rebuked the workmen for celebrating Caesar's victory.
 - They drove the crowd off the streets of Rome.
 - They pulled scarves off Caesar's statue.
 - They were jealous of Cassius.
- When Cassius says, "I know where I will wear this dagger, then," he means that _____.
 - he will kill Caesar
 - he will commit suicide
 - he will meet Brutus with a dagger
 - he will use his dagger to kill Mark Antony
- "I do not know the man I should avoid so soon as that spare Cassius." These lines tell us that Caesar is _____ Cassius' intentions.
 - sad about
 - suspicious of
 - anxious about
 - jealous of
- Which of the following lines reflect Casca's superstitious nature?
 - All the sway of earth shakes like a thing unfirm.
 - You speak to Casca that is no fleeing tell-tale.
 - The bird of night did sit, even at noonday upon the market place, hooting and shrieking.
 - But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens?
- What reason did Brutus give for being unfriendly towards Cassius?
 - His own conflicting emotions.
 - Caesar's victory over Pompey's sons.
 - Fear of becoming a slave.
 - He lacks liveliness.
- Which line in the poem tells us that the Night Mail does not discriminate among people?
 - 'The train passes noiselessly through the farm.'
 - 'All Scotland waits for her.'
 - 'Letters for rich, letters for the poor.'
 - 'Letters to Scotland from the South of France.'



8. How is the Night Mail depicted in the poem?
 - a) As a powerful and unstoppable force.
 - b) As a peaceful and a calm presence to people across Europe.
 - c) As a slow train.
 - d) As a journey of life.
9. Who is the poet of the poem "A Work of Artifice"?
 - a) W.H. Auden
 - b) Marge Piercy
 - c) T. S.Eliot
 - d) Vikram Seth
10. What, according to the poem, 'A Work of Artifice', should begin very early with living creatures?
 - a) Trimming of branches.
 - b) Dwarfing the growth of women.
 - c) Loving the patriarchal society.
 - d) Domination of men in the society.
11. Which of the following options contains the figure of speech that appears in the following line: '.....whittles back the branches the gardener croons'
 - a) '...tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear. Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear'
 - b) 'Our little lives are kept in equipoise. By opposite attractions and desires'
 - c) 'My mind to me a kingdom is; such perfect joy therein I find.'
 - d) 'My little horse must think it queer, To stop without a farmhouse near'
12. What prank did the boys play on Bonku Babu on the night of Kali Puja?
 - a) The boys put glue on his chair.
 - b) The boys lit fireworks.
 - c) The boys drew caricatures on the blackboard.
 - d) The boys lit a chasing rocket and set it off right behind him.
13. The moving point of light seen by the residents of Kankurgachhi three months ago turned out to be _____
 - a) A shooting star
 - b) A Russian satellite called Khotka
 - c) A Chinese satellite
 - d) An American spaceship
14. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order:
 - i. He noticed a pink glow coming from a giant glass bowl in the middle of the bamboo grove.
 - ii. When he stepped forward to take a closer look, he felt as if an electric shock had passed through his body.
 - iii. He grew uneasy as he became aware of an eerie silence that had suddenly descended on the world.
 - iv. Although it was dark, moonless night, Bonku Babu chose to take the shortcut home.
 - a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
 - b) (ii), (iii), (iv), (i)
 - c) (iv), (iii), (i), (ii)
 - d) (iv), (ii), (iii), (i)
15. Which of the following is NOT done by Nathu to emphasise his annoyance?
 - a) Banging his pan against the dustbin.
 - b) Sitting on the footsteps of the bank.
 - c) By rousing dust while brooming.
 - d) By complaining to his friend, Sitaram.
16. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from Ruskin Bonds story, 'The Boy who Broke the Bank'.

Statement 1: 'Had you remained stationary in one shop, I might have found you. But you go from one shop to another, like a bee in a flower garden.'

Statement 2: 'The bird has flown! Definitely, it means a collapse'

 - 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.



SECTION - B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

DRAMA

(JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare)

Q 2) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

BRUTUS—What means this shouting? I do fear, the people choose Caesar for their king.

CASSIUS – Ay, do you fear it?

Then must I think you would not have it so.

1. Where does the above scene take place? Why are Brutus and Cassius alone together at this time while the festivities are on? Who are shouting? [3]
2. Why did Brutus not want Caesar to become King? What was the real reason for the 'shouting'? [3]
3. Just after this extract, Cassius states that he is equal to Caesar in three aspects. What are these three aspects? [3]
4. Narrate the incident in which Cassius portrays himself to be much superior to Caesar. What conclusion did he draw about Caesar from that incident? [3]
5. How is Caesar shown to be far-sighted and wise in his judgement of Cassius' character? Explain. [4]

Q 3) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Casca: But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens?

It is part of men to fear and tremble,

When the most mighty Gods by tokens send

Such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

1. Where are Cassius and Casca? When does the conversation take place? Describe the weather outside. [3]
2. In what way has Cassius tempted the heaven? [3]
3. Explain why does Cassius not consider Casca a true Roman? What does he say later in the scene to justify that Casca is not a true Roman? [3]
4. Later in the scene, what information does Casca give regarding Caesar? How does Cassius react to this? [3]
5. At the beginning of the scene, Casca told Cicero that he saw unnatural sights. Mention any two. What can you infer about his character from this scene? [4]

SECTION - C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

PROSE-SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest- A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

Q 4) Read the extract from Satyajit Ray's short story 'Bonku Babu's Friend' given below and answer the questions that follow:

The creature walked slowly towards Bonku Babu, and stopped only a few feet away. Then it gave him a steady, unblinking stare. Automatically, Bonku Babu found himself folding his hands. Having stared at him for nearly a minute, it spoke in the same voice that sounded more like a flute than anything else, "Are you human?"

1. Who was the creature? From where had he come? What was Bonku Babu's reaction when the creature walked up to him? [3]
2. Describe the appearance of the creature. [3]
3. How does the strange creature prove that he was much superior to Bonku Babu? [3]
4. How and where did Bonku Babu meet the creature? What was the impact of this meeting on Bonku Babu's life? [3]
5. How does the story 'Bonku Babu's Friend' by Satyajit Ray relate to real life situations? What impression do you form of Bonku Babu in the story? [4]

Q 5) Read the following extract from Ruskin Bond's short story, The Boy who Broke the Bank and answer the questions that follow:

And a brick hurtled through the air and crashed through the plate glass window of the Pipalnagar Bank.

Nathu arrived next morning to sweep the steps of the bank. He saw the refuse and the broken glass and the stones cluttering the steps.



Raising his hands in a gesture of horror and disgust he cried: 'Hooligans! Sons of donkeys! As though it isn't bad enough to be paid late, it seems my work has also to be increased!' He smote the steps with his broom scattering the refuse.

'Good morning, Nathu said the washerman's son. "Are you ready to take up a new job from the first of the next month?"

1. Name the washerman's son referred to in the above extract? What relationship did he share with Nathu? What kind of a man was he? [3]
2. Describe what did Nathu see when he reached the bank. How did he react? [3]
3. What was the commotion outside the bank, earlier in the story? What does this commotion tell us about the people of the small town of Pipalnagar? [3]
4. How did the manager try to placate the people who had gathered outside the Pipalnagar bank? [3]
5. At the end of the story, the Pipalnagar bank collapsed. In your opinion, who was responsible for the collapse of the bank and how? [4]

SECTION – D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

(Treasure Chest- A collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Q 6) Read the extract from Marge Piercy's poem 'A Work of Artifice' and answer the questions that follow:

how lucky, little tree,
to have a pot to grow in.
With living creatures
one must begin very early
to dwarf their growth:
the bound feet,
the crippled brain,

1. Which tree is the poet talking about? How tall would it have grown and in what circumstances? [3]
2. Who are the 'living creatures'? What does the 'pot' mean in the metaphorical context of the poem? [3]
3. Why should one begin very early? What do you understand by 'dwarf their growth'? [3]
4. What do you understand by 'crippled brain'? Briefly explain the significance of 'bound feet.' [3]
5. How are the women tricked to play a stereotypical role in life? Explain how this extract depicts the theme of patriarchy through deception. [4]

Q 7) Read the following extract from W. H. Auden's poem, The Night Mail and answer the questions that follow:

Snorting noisily as she passes
Silent miles of wind-bent grasses.
Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches

1. Where does the Night Mail start its journey from? Where is it bound to? Why does the poet call it a Night Mail?[3]
2. What types of letters is the Night Mail carrying? Why does the Night Mail travel during the night? [3]
3. How is the Night Mail different from regular trains? What does the Night Mail symbolise? [3]
4. What do birds, dogs and farm-owners do when the Night Mail approaches? [3]
5. How does the poet personify the Night Mail? Give two examples from the poem? [4]