



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2024-25)
CLASS - X
ENGLISH LITERATURE (Paper – 2)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours

Answers to this Paper must be written on the answer sheet 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.

This 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, 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) Who enter through the open doors of houses?
- Ancestors
 - Phantoms
 - Ethereal air
 - Thoughts
- (ii) Why did King Francis say that 'we're better here than there'?
- They were at a safe distance from the ferocious fight in the pit
 - They were enjoying the game rather than fighting out.
 - They did not have to enter the arena to pick up the lady's glove.
 - None of the above.
- (iii) When the ghosts cannot be seen or heard, how are they perceived in the house?
- A gust of wind
 - A gleam of light
 - A sense of something
 - A shadow on the wall
- (iv) How does the speaker think that the bereaved can continue to 'Be and be better'?
- By forgetting the departed souls after some time
 - By the inspiration provided by the great souls
 - By accepting the fact that they are gone forever
 - None of the above
- (v) Why was the narrator grasping for breath when he reached his home?
- He was scared the old lady was following him
 - He used the stairs to reach his home on the seventeenth floor
 - He ran as fast as he could to escape from the fat lady
 - He was thin and weak
- (vi) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from 'The Elevator'.
- "What am I going to do with you, Martin? Honestly, now you're afraid of some poor old lady."
 - Martin started running down the stairs. The stairs were dark and he fell.
- 1 is the cause for 2
 - 1 is an example of 2
 - 1 is independent of 2
 - 1 is a contradiction of 2
- (vii) What has the narrator 'always known'?
- The photographer was unprofessional
 - His face was lean
 - His face was wrong
 - None of the above
- (viii) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order.
- 'Oh, there's nothing to see yet, he said, 'I have to develop the negative first.'
 - When the photographer came out at last, he looked very grave and shook his head.
 - The photographer had pulled a string. The photograph taken.
 - Go on then with your brutal work.
- 4, 3, 2, 1
 - 2, 3, 1, 4
 - 2, 1, 3, 4



- (d) 3, 4, 2, 1
- (ix) How does Antony describe Caesar's wounds?
 (a) Meek creatures
 (b) Unfortunate mouths
 (c) Poor dumb mouths
 (d) None of the above
- (x) Who said, "I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth...?"
 (a) Caesar
 (b) Brutus
 (c) Cassius
 (d) Antony
- (xi) What did Cinna the poet dream about?
 (a) Fighting with Caesar
 (b) Reading poetry with Caesar
 (c) Feasting with Caesar
 (d) None of the above
- (xii) Who is referred to as Pindarus' master?
 (a) Brutus
 (b) Cassius
 (c) Antony
 (d) Octavius
- (xiii) Who were the two guards outside Brutus' tent while Brutus and Cassius discussed their grievances in Sardis?
 (a) Pindarus and Titinius
 (b) Titinius and Lucilius
 (c) Antony and Octavius
 (d) Octavius and Pindarus
- (xiv) What reply does Brutus give for Cassius' accusation against him?
 (a) He has returned what Cassius gave him
 (b) He cannot do any wrong with his relatives
 (c) He cannot do any wrong even with his enemies
 (d) None of the above
- (xv) What is suggested by the line – 'Our minds, formed and informed'?
 (a) The great souls remain in our mind
 (b) The great souls shape the way people think
 (c) The great souls have great minds
 (d) The great souls cannot touch the minds of people
- (xvi) Why did Lorge throw the glove 'right in the lady's face'?
 (a) To show his love for her
 (b) To prove his bravery
 (c) To prove how significant she is
 (d) To show his annoyance at her vanity

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:

Antony:

Let but the commons hear this testament—
 Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read—
 And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds
 And dip their napkins in his sacred blood,
 Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,
 And, dying, mention it within their wills,
 Bequeathing it as a rich legacy
 Unto their issue.

- (i) Which testament is referred to by Antony and who are referred to as "the commons"? Why does Antony not want to read the testament? [3]
- (ii) Give the meaning of: Bequeathing it as a rich legacy / Unto their issue. [3]
- (iii) Mention two of the purposes why the commons would dip their napkins in Caesars' blood and beg a hair of his. Why is the blood of Caesar said to be sacred? (Refer to three previous speeches of Brutus, in which he indicates how Caesar should be murdered.) [3]
- (iv) Besides the testament, which other article does Antony show later to the commons? How does that incite the commons? [3]
- (v) State briefly how Antony cleverly played on the emotions of the common people and show how they reacted as he desired. [4]

Question 3

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

Brutus:

Thou hast described
 A hot friend cooling; ever note, Lucilius,

When love begins to sicken and decay,
 It useth an enforced ceremony.
 There are no tricks in plain and simple faith:
 But hollow men, like horses hot at hand,
 Make gallant show and promise of their mettle;
 But when they should endure the bloody spur,
 They fall their crests, and, like deceitful jades.
 Sink in the trial. Comes his army on?

- (i) Where is Brutus in this scene? Who is “thou” in “thou hast describ’d”? Who is the friend in ‘A hot friend cooling’? [3]
- (ii) What, according to Brutus, happens when love begins to decline? How has sincere friendship been described in this speech of Brutus? [3]
- (iii) In his previous speech in this scene, Brutus has made a wish. What was that wish? Why did he make that wish? [3]
- (iv) What has happened to the relationship that Brutus has with the friend referred to in this extract? Why has their relationship changed? [3]
- (v) How does Act IV Scene II of Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare bring out the importance of friendship between Brutus and Cassius? Also briefly discuss the breaking down of the same important friendship supporting your reasons for both. [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 following extract from the short story ‘The Elevator’ by William Sleator and answer the questions that follow:

He thought about her all day. Did she live in the building? He had never seen her before, and the building was not very big. Maybe she was visiting somebody? But 7.30 in the morning was too early for visiting.

Martin felt nervous when he got back to the building after school. But why should he be afraid of an old lady? He felt ashamed of himself. He pressed the button and stepped into the elevator, hoping that it would not stop, but it stopped on the third floor.

- (i) Who was Martin? Who is ‘her’ in the given extract? [3]
- (ii) Why was Martin nervous when he got back to his building after school? On which floor did the elevator stop? [3]
- (iii) Why did Martin feel ashamed of himself? What does it reveal about him? [3]
- (iv) Why did Martin hope that the elevator would not stop? What happened when it did stop on the third floor? [3]
- (v) What was more terrifying for Martin – the elevator or the old lady? Give reasons to support your answer. [4]

Question 5

Read the following extract from the short story ‘With the Photographer’ by Stephen Leacock and answer the questions that follow:

“Listen!” I interrupted, drawing myself up and animating my features to their full extent and speaking with a withering scorn that should have blasted the man on the spot. “Listen! I came here for a photograph – a picture – something which (mad though it seems) would have looked like me. I wanted something that would depict my face as Heaven gave it to me, humble though the gift may have been. I wanted something that my friends might keep after my death, to reconcile them to my loss.

- (i) Whom does the narrator interrupt and why? [3]
- (ii) What kind of photograph does the narrator wish to have? Was it up to his expectation? Why? [3]
- (iii) Why does the narrator speak to him ‘with a withering scorn’? What was the narrator’s mood in the given extract? [3]
- (iv) Why does the narrator describe his face as ‘humble gift’? Why did he want to give his photograph to his friends? [3]
- (v) Briefly discussing the central theme of Stephen Leacock’s short story ‘With the Photographer’, [4] bring out the contrast in the characters of the story: the photographer and the narrator.

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 Glove and the Lions' by Leigh Hunt and answer the questions that follow:

De Lorge's love o'erheard the King, a beauteous lively dame
With smiling lips and sharp bright eyes, which always seemed the same;
She thought, the Count my lover is brave as brave can be;
He surely would do wondrous things to show his love of me;
King, ladies, lovers, all look on; the occasion is divine;
I'll drop my glove, to prove his love; great glory will be mine.

- (i) Who was de' Lorge's love? What did she overhear the King saying? [3]
- (ii) What did she think about the King? What does the description 'always seemed the same' mean? [3]
- (iii) What image of de'Lorge did she have in her mind? What was she sure about him? [3]
- (iv) How did she want to assure herself about the image of de'Lorge? What was her real intention? [3]
- (v) Briefly explain the theme of Leigh Hunt's short poem 'The Glove and the Lions'. How does the reaction of de'Lorge and the concluding words of King Francis acknowledge the central theme of the poem? [4]

Question 7

Read the following extract from the poem 'When Great Trees Fall' by Maya Angelou and answer the questions that follow:

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

- (i) What are the 'small things' referred to in this extract? What happens to them when great trees fall? [3]
- (ii) In the previous stanza of the poem, the poet has mentioned a contrast of small things. What is this contrast? What is the similarity in the two contrasting agents? [3]
- (iii) Explain the phrase 'senses eroded beyond fear'. How can their senses be compared to those of humans? [3]
- (iv) State any three effects of the fall of great trees. [3]
- (v) How has the fall of great trees in a forest been metaphorically compared to the death of influential people in our lives in the short poem 'When Great Trees Fall' by Maya Angelou? Elaborate. [4]

