



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2025-26)

CLASS – X

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (ENGLISH PAPER – 2)

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 question – simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.)

[16]

(i) The first one to stab Caesar was:

- (a) Cinna
- (b) Casca

- (c) Brutus
- (d) Cassius

(ii) 'If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.' These words were spoken by:

- (a) Brutus
- (b) Antony

- (c) Cassius
- (d) Caesar

(iii) The protagonist of 'The Girl Who Can' wanted to see the legs of other women who had children because:

- (a) She wanted to compare them with Nana's legs
 - (b) She wanted to compare them with Maami's legs
 - (c) She wanted to compare them with the legs of her classmates
 - (d) She wanted to compare them with her own legs
- (iv) Caesar calls himself as constant as _____.

- (a) the southern star
- (b) the northern star

- (c) Mount Olympus
- (d) the eastern star

(v) How many drachmas has Caesar left for each Roman?

- (a) Seventy five
- (b) Sixty five

- (c) Fifty five
- (d) Forty five

(vi) What is Antony planning to do to the men whose names are prick'd?

- (a) Kill them
- (b) Put them in jail

- (c) Offer them government jobs
- (d) Extract money from them

(vii) Who tells Brutus that Cassius seemed cold and distant?

- (a) Lepidus
- (b) Antony

- (c) Lucilius
- (d) Lucius

(viii) The photographer had the dim eye of a natural _____.

- (a) artist
- (b) singer

- (c) scientist
- (d) poet

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(ix) "I broke into tears and left." Who broke into tears?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| (a) Photographer | (c) Adjoa |
| (b) Narrator (Stephen Leacock) | (d) Fat lady |

(x) Martin was a ____ years old boy.

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 12 | (c) 10 |
| (b) 11 | (d) 9 |

(xi) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (II) from Stephen Leacock's short story "*With the Photographer*":

Statement I: The narrator did not agree with the photographer because he had accepted his outer appearance.

Statement II: The narrator did not agree with the photographer because he was embarrassed of his outer appearance.

- (a) I is true and II is false
 (b) II is true and I is false
 (c) I is the cause of II
 (d) I and II are independent of each other

(xii) As for my mother, she was ____ as usual.

- (a) talkative
 (b) criticising
 (c) speechless
 (d) complaining

(xiii) Nana carried the trophy on her back as if it were a baby because ____.

- (a) it was precious to her
 (b) it was too heavy
 (c) the teacher told her
 (d) she wanted to surprise the villagers

(xiv) The phantoms in the haunted houses have been presented as ____.

- (a) visible and tangible
 (b) impalpable
 (c) destructive
 (d) loud and disturbing

(xv) "*The ghosts are as silent as the pictures on the wall.*" Which poetic device has been used in this line?

- (a) simile
 (b) personification
 (c) metaphor
 (d) alliteration

(xvi) What did the lady think about Count de Lorge?

- (a) He was brave.
 (b) He was intelligent.
 (c) He was a coward.
 (d) He was meek.

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:

BRUTUS: Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers, hear me for my cause, and be silent that you may hear. Believe me for mine honor, and have respect to mine honor

that you may believe. Censure me in your wisdom,
and awake your senses that you may the better
judge.

- Where is Brutus? Who does he request to be patient? What was the occasion when he made this speech? [3]
- What does Brutus mean by 'censure me in your wisdom'? Why does he want the listeners to be the 'better judge'? [3]
- "Hear me for my cause." What was his cause? Were his intentions genuine? Give one reason to support your answer. [3]
- How did the listeners react in the beginning? Why was there a change in their reaction when the scene ended? [3]
- Who enters the scene after this speech of Brutus? How is that particular character responsible in bringing about a change in Brutus' life? Explain briefly. [4]

Question 3

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

ANTONY: Octavius, I have seen more days than you,
And, though we lay these honors on this man
To ease ourselves of diverse sland'rous loads,
He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold,
To groan and sweat under the business,
Either led or driven, as we point the way;
And having brought our treasure where we will,
Then take we down his load and turn him off
Like to the empty ass to shake his ears
And graze in commons.

- Where are Antony and Octavius in this speech? Why are they there together? Who is 'this man' in the given extract? [3]
- What is 'this man' fit for according to Antony? With what does Antony compare 'this man'? Mention any two comparisons. [3]
- Explain the following: [3]
 - 'I have seen more days than you'.
 - 'To ease ourselves of diverse sland'rous loads'.
 - 'Like to the empty ass'.
- Who were the three members of the second triumvirate? [3]
- How does this scene reveal the dark and manipulative political scenario of Rome after the assassination of Caesar? Comment. [4]

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

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

Question 4

Read the extract from Leigh Hunt's short poem "*The Glove and the Lions*", 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.*

- Who was 'De Lorge's love'? What did she overhear the King saying? [3]
- What impact did the King's words have on the beloved of De Lorge? What was the first thought in her mind? [3]
- What image did she have of De Lorge in her mind? What was she sure of about him? [3]
- How did she want to assure herself about the image of De Lorge? What was her real intention? [3]
- 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 5

Read the extract from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's short poem "*Haunted Houses*", and answer the questions that follow:

*There are more guests at table than the hosts
Invited; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.*

- (a) Who are the 'guests at the table'? Why were there more guests than were invited? [3]
- (b) Why are they described as 'quiet' and 'inoffensive'? State two other traits of the ghosts described in the poem? [3]
- (c) How do these uninvited guests behave at the table? Why are they 'as silent as the pictures on the wall'? [3]
- (d) How does this extract reflect the presence of the past in the present? [3]
- (e) In his short poem "*Haunted Houses*", how does Henry Wadsworth Longfellow delve into the connection between the deceased and the existing? Support your answer by discussing the usage of imagery and symbolism used by the poet to show that the past continues to live with us in our homes and memories. [4]

SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE – SHORT STORIES

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

Question 6

Read the extract from Stephen Leacock's short story "*With the Photographer*", and answer the questions that follow:

"Stop," I said with emotion but, I think, with dignity. "This face is my face. It is not yours, it is mine. I've lived with it for forty years and I know its faults. I know it's out of drawing. I know it wasn't made for me, but it's my face, the only one I have—" I was conscious of a break in my voice but I went on— "such as it is, I've learned to love it. And this is my mouth, not yours. These ears are mine, and if your machine is too narrow—" Here I started to rise from the seat.

- (a) Who does the narrator stop? What does he ask him to stop? What is the estimated age of the narrator? [3]
- (b) What is the mood of the narrator in this extract? What does he have to say about his face? [3]
- (c) 'I know my faults.' What does he mean by this statement? Why did he feel a break in his voice? [3]
- (d) What does the narrator mean by saying that he has learnt to love it? What does it indicate about the narrator? [3]
- (e) Why and how does the narrator's visit to the photo studio turn out to be an annoying experience for him? Elaborate taking proper relevance from the story. [4]

Question 7

Read the extract from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story "*The Girl Who Can*", and answer the questions that follow:

So I wished that one day I would see, for myself, the legs of any woman who had had children. But in our village, that is not easy. The older women wear long wrap- arounds all the time. Perhaps if they let me go bathe in the river in the evening, I could have checked. But I never had the chance. It took a lot of begging just to get my mother and Nana to let me go splash around in the shallow end of the river with my friends, who were other little girls like me. For proper baths, we used the small bathhouse behind our hut.

- (a) What did Adjoa wish to see one day and why? [3]
- (b) What were the two problems of Adjoa's life? Which one was bigger for her? [3]
- (c) What was the name of Adjoa's village? Why was it not easy for Adjoa to see the legs of the other women of her village? [3]
- (d) Why was Adjoa not able to understand the elders? Why did she consider them to be hypocrites? [3]
- (e) How does the selection and victory of Adjoa in the district running games mark a turning point in her life? How does the victory become the victory of the three women characters in Ama Ata Aidoo's short story "*The Girl Who Can*"? Comment. [4]
