



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2024-25) CLASS – X ENGLISH LITERATURE

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 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 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.

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

[16]

1. Why did the poet allow the mite to doze off instead of killing it?

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) It was too tired and wanted to take a rest. | (c) It did not intend any harm to him. |
| (b) He believed in collectivistic ideology. | (d) Superiority of man. |

2. Who would overlook a friend's fault, according to Brutus?

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) A selfish man. | (c) An arrogant man. |
| (b) A flatter's eye. | (d) An evil man. |

3. Which of the following is reflected by the statement that Leonard Mead was good as alone?

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|--|--|
| (a) He was a lonely person. | (c) He was a nonconformist. |
| (b) He longed for the company of others. | (d) He wished to be like his neighbours. |

4. Which poetic device is used in the line given below?

“With loathing, for again it turned to fly”

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|----------------------|---------------|
| (a) Metaphor. | (c) Simile. |
| (b) Personification. | (d) Oxymoron. |

5. How does Brutus carry anger within his nature?

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) As a flint carries fire. | (c) As a matchstick. |
| (b) As a drop of water. | (d) As a wick of a candle. |

6. Select the option that shows the correct connection between statements (1) and (2) from ‘With the photographer’

1. ‘How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?’

2. Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds’ eggs, or going sliding on the Saar!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) 1 is the cause of 2. | (c) 1 is independent of 2. |
| (b) 1 is an example of 2. | (d) 1 is a contradiction of 2. |

7. What is the genre of the poem, ‘The Power of Music’?

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| (a) Ballad. | (c) Elegy. |
| (b) Sonnet. | (d) Nonsense verse. |

8. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order

1. He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the illumination, and then drawn toward it.

2. He couldn't see the men in it for the bright light in his eyes.

3. He began his journey in a westerly direction, toward the hidden sea.

4. He stumbled over a particularly uneven section of sidewalk.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 3,4,1,2 | (c) 3,1,4,2 |
| (b) 1,3,2,4 | (d) 2,4,1,2 |

9. What is the one serious problem Adjoa has to face?

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) She cannot laugh when her grandmother laughs. | (c) She cannot understand the language of elders. |
| (b) She cannot express herself. | (d) None of the above. |

10. Which two examples does Antony give to show that Caesar was not ambitious?

1. Caesar badly wanted the crown which he had offered him earlier.

2. Caesar had refused the crown offered to him by Antony not once but thrice.

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3. Caesar saw to it that all the money collected from the prisoners of war as ransom was put for the welfare of the common people.

4. Caesar was loved by the upper class of people.

(a) 2 and 3

(c) 4 and 1

(b) 1 and 3

(d) 2 and 4

11. Which of the following did NOT happen when people heard Bhisma Lochan singing?

(a) They got trampled.

(c) They were able to make him stop singing.

(b) They became pale and sick.

(d) They got confused.

12. What reason does Antony give for the enemy's advance towards Philippi?

(a) To hide their conflict and show their unity.

(c) To hide their fears and show their unity.

(b) To show their patriotism and show their

(d) None of the above.

friendship.

13. Why did the Photographer twist and turn the narrator's head and face?

(a) To adjust them according to the narrator's choice.

(c) To insult and annoy the narrator.

(b) To get the right angle for clicking the photo.

(d) All of the above.

14. Which of the following is NOT associated with the Spirits in the poem 'Haunted House'?

(a) They glide.

(c) They waft.

(b) They throng.

(d) They wail.

15. Which of the following made Cassius commit suicide?

(a) Cowardice.

(c) Overconfidence.

(b) Error of judgement.

(d) Pride and arrogance.

16. Why did Martin feel secure in the Elevator after he returned from the hospital?

(a) His father was with him in the elevator.

(c) He could hit the lady with his crutches.

(b) The old lady was not in the elevator.

(d) None 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:

Brutus: By the gods

*You shall digest the venom of your spleen,
Though it do split you; for, from this day forth,
I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter,
When you are waspish.*

Cassius: Is it come to this?

*Brutus: You say you are a better soldier:
Let it appear so; make your vaunting true,
And it shall please me well: For mine own part,
I shall be glad to learn of noble men.*

(i) What does 'You shall digest the venom of your spleen, though it do split you' mean? What does Brutus say he will use Cassius for? [3]

(ii) Give two examples of the taunts which Brutus had indulged in earlier which makes Cassius say, is it come to this? [Do not use the material used for answering question (i) above] [3]

(iii) Under what conditions had Cassius made the statement that he was a better soldier than Brutus? How accurate is Cassius' Assessment of himself as a soldier? Give reasons for your answer [3]

(iv) What is meant by 'vaunting'? How could Cassius prove his vaunting at this point of time? [3]

(v) While Brutus and Cassius are arguing, a strange visitor enters the scene. Who is he? What is the purpose of his visit? How does Brutus react to his arrival? [4]

Question 3.

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

Lucilius: Safe Antony; Brutus is safe enough:

I dare assure thee that no enemy

Shall ever take alive the noble Brutus:

The gods defend him from so great a shame!

When you do find him, or alive or dead,

He will be found like Brutus, like himself.

(i) In what sense is Brutus safe enough? How are the second and the third lines of the extract prophetic i.e. indicative of what is going to take place? [3]

(ii) Who has just been killed when Lucilius is captured? Who has captured Lucilius? What have they done with him? [3]

(iii) The Gods defend him from so great a shame! What was considered shameful according to the Roman custom? [3]

(iv) What is happening on the battlefield? Who is emerging victorious? [3]

- (v) There seem to be two objectives in Lucilius impersonating Brutus. What do you think are these objectives?
[4]

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE

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

Question 4.

Read the extract from 'The Girl Who Can' by 'Ama Ata Aidoo' and answer the questions that follow:

Nana would just laugh. 'Ah, maybe with legs like hers, she might as well go to school.'

Running with our classmates on our small sports field and winning first place each time never seemed to me to be anything about which to tell anyone at home. This time it was different. I don't know how the teachers decided to let me run for the junior section of our school in the District Games. But they did.

When I went home to tell my mother and Nana, they had not believed it at first. So Nana had taken upon herself to go and 'ask into it properly'.

- (i) Why would Nana laugh? Why does she allow Adjoa to go to school? [3]
 (ii) Why does Adjoa not tell anybody at home about her running on the sports field and winning all the competitions? Why does she say that this time it was different? [3]
 (iii) How do Adjoa's mother and grandmother react to the news about her being selected as a runner for the district games? How does her grandmother check the truth about the news? [3]
 (iv) How does Adjoa's mother react after her grandmother verifies that Adjoa is indeed one of her school's runners? [3]
 (v) Explain briefly what all Nana did on getting the news of Adjoa's selection for the district sports meet and why? [4]

Question 5.

Read the extract from 'The Last Lesson' by 'Alphonse Daudet' and answer the question that follows:

"My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you.

The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine.

The new master comes tomorrow.

This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive."

- (i) Who is addressing whom in this extract? How has the narrator described his tone before the beginning of this extract? [3]
 (ii) Why does the narrator say that it would be his last lesson? Which lesson is he talking about? [3]
 (iii) What order has come from Berlin? Why? [3]
 (iv) Who is referred to in the extract as 'The new master'? How would this 'New Master' affect the people of Alsace and Lorraine? [3]
 (v) Explain briefly how is 'The Last Lesson' an appropriate title for 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 following extract from the poem 'A Considerable Speck' by 'Robert Frost' and answer the questions that follow:

*It paused as with suspicion of my pen,
 And then came racing wildly on again
 To where my manuscript was not yet dry;
 Then paused again and either drank or smelt-
 With loathing, for again it turned to fly.*

- (i) What is referred to by 'it' that paused with suspicion? Why did 'it' do so? [3]
 (ii) Why did 'it' start racing wildly after a pause? Why was the manuscript not yet dry? [3]
 (iii) What did 'it' drink or smell with loathing? Why? What did 'it' do after that? [3]
 (iv) Explain briefly, the use of imagery in the extract. [3]
 (v) How does the speaker deal with 'it'? What makes him do so? How does the speaker's action justify the theme of the poem? [4]

Question 7.

Read the extract from the poem 'The Power of Music' by 'Sukumar Roy' and answer the questions that follow:

The welkin weeps to hear his screech, and mighty mansions tumble.

But now there comes a billy goat, a most sagacious fellow,

He downs his horns and charges straight, with bellow answer'ring bellow.

The strains of song are tossed and whirled by blast of brutal violence,

And Bhisma Lochan grants the world the golden gift of silence.

- (i) Who 'weeps' in this extract and why? Which figure of speech is used in the 'The welkin weeps'? [3]
 (ii) What happens to 'mighty mansion'? Which natural object met the same fate as the mansion earlier in the poem? [3]
 (iii) Why is the billy goat described as 'a most sagacious fellow'? [3]
 (iv) What does the billy goat do which many others could not? How? [3]
 (v) Which figure of speech is used in the last line of the extract? What is the significance of this line? Give reasons in support. [4]
