

# HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION: 2024-2025

CLASS: X

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.)

1. How many people could the elevator carry?
  - a. two
  - b. four
  - c. three
  - d. only one
  
2. Where did Martin's father work?
  - a. In a factory
  - b. In an office
  - c. At home
  - d. In his fields
  
3. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order.
  - i. Martin and his father shifted to an apartment.
  - ii. Martin asked his father if he knew the fat lady.
  - iii. Martin's father went to meet Mrs. Ullman.
  - iv. The elevator stopped at the fourteenth floor and a fat lady got in.
  - a. 1,2,3,4
  - b. 1,4,2,3
  - c. 4,3,2,1
  - d. 3,4,1,2
  
4. What kind of a person was Nana in the story 'The Girl Who Can'?
  - a. docile
  - b. submissive
  - c. authoritative
  - d. weak-willed
  
5. Which of the following statements is NOT true of the photographer?
  - a. He was a drooping man.
  - b. He wore a gray suit.
  - c. He had a dim eye.
  - d. He looked with enthusiasm.
  
6. 'As silent as the pictures on the wall.' Which figure of speech is used in this line?
  - a. Simile
  - b. Metaphor
  - c. Personification
  - d. Alliteration

7. In 'Haunted Houses', what kind of bridge is imagined by the poet?
  - a. A bridge of wood
  - b. A bridge of light
  - c. A steady bridge
  - d. A steel bridge
  
8. In the poem 'When Great Trees Fall', which big animals seek safety?
  - a. Deer
  - b. Giraffe
  - c. Lions and Elephants
  - d. Tiger
  
9. Which of these character traits is not applicable to De Lorge's lady in 'The Glove and the Lions'?
  - a. Arrogant
  - b. Humble
  - c. Foolish
  - d. Vain
  
10. How did the king react when he looked at De Lorge's beloved?
  - a. He smiled
  - b. He sighed
  - c. He laughed
  - d. He frowned
  
11. How does the crowd react to Antony's revelation of Caesar's will?
  - a. They demand to see the will.
  - b. They did not show any interest.
  - c. They ignored Antony.
  - d. They went back to their houses peacefully.
  
12. What does Antony repeat in his speech in Act three Scene two of Julius Caesar?
  - a. Brutus is a dishonourable man.
  - b. Caesar was an honourable man.
  - c. Brutus is an honourable man.
  - d. Caesar and Cassius were dishonourable men.
  
13. What are Caesar's last words before he is assassinated?
  - a. 'Doth not Brutus bootless kneel?'
  - b. 'Beware the Ides of March.'
  - c. 'Hail, Caesar.'
  - d. 'Et tu, Brute!'
  
14. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (i) and (ii)
  - i. Brutus and Cassius rode away through the gates of Rome.
  - ii. Cinna, the poet, dreamt the previous night that he was feasting with Caesar.
  - a. (i) is the cause of (ii)
  - b. (i) is an example of (ii)
  - c. (i) is independent of (ii)
  - d. (i) is a contradiction of (ii)
  
15. 'Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.' Who is 'I' referred to in this line?
  - a. Cassius
  - b. Brutus
  - c. Casca
  - d. Antony
  
16. Where did Antony go right after Caesar's assassination?
  - a. He went to kill Brutus.
  - b. He went to the Capitol.
  - c. He fled to his house in great confusion.
  - d. He went away with Caesar's body to the marketplace.

## 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:

**Decius:** Trebonius doth desire you to o'er-read,

At your best leisure, this his humble suit.

**Artemidorus:** O Caesar, read mine first; for mine's a suit

That touches Caesar nearer: read it, great Caesar.

**Caesar:** What touches us ourself shall be last served.

- Where does this conversation take place? Why did Caesar tell the soothsayer 'The ides of March are come.'? What response did the soothsayer give to Caesar? [3]
- Who is Artemidorus? Whom does he represent in the play? What is the importance of his 'schedule'? [3]
- Why does Artemidorus request Caesar to read his schedule first? Are Artemidorus' fears justified later in the play? [3]
- Mention the two reasons given by Caesar for not reading the schedule handed over by Artemidorus? Which trait of his personality is revealed by his act? [3]
- Name two people in the scene who are trying to warn Caesar. Name two other people who defeat their efforts to do so. How do they obstruct those trying to warn Caesar? [4]

#### Question 3

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

**Antony:** O judgement! thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason Bear with me;

My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.

- When and where does Anthony say these words? What effect does he hope to create? [3]
- Explain, 'O judgement, ..... lost their reason.' [3]
- Why does he say, 'Bear with me'? What effect does this have on the audience? [3]
- To whose speech is Antony's speech a contrast? Explain, in brief, how? [3]
- What proofs does Antony show to the audience to convince them? Does it affect them? [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 Stephen Leacock's short story, 'With the Photographer' given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Coat it with an inch of gloss, shade it, emboss it, gild it, till even you acknowledge that it is finished. Then when you have done all that- keep it for yourself and your friends. They may value it. To me it is but a worthless bauble."

- Why did the narrator go to the photo studio the second time? What is his reaction on seeing his photograph? [3]
- Mention any two different processes with the help of which the photographer changed the features in the photograph? Which features did he change? [3]
- What was the photographer proud of? What are the changes that the photographer wanted to make in the final finish of the photograph? [3]
- Both the photographer and the narrator looked at the photograph in silence. Why do you think both were silent? Were they thinking the same thing? [3]
- How did the narrator express his anger at the photographer.? Why does he call it a worthless bauble? [4]

### Question 5

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

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

- Who are the two favourite people of the narrator mentioned here? Do they have the same views? [3]
- What did the narrator tell her mother and Nana? Did Nana believe her? If not what did she do? [3]
- What change of heart and mind is seen in Nana's personality? How does it seem different from her earlier attitude? [3]
- How did Nana react to the narrator's achievement? What does Nana begin to think about the role of women in society? [3]
- How does Adjoa show the mettle of a woman? How did Adjoa's mother react at her achievement? [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 given below and answer the questions that follow:

Ramped and roared the lions, with horrid laughing jaws;  
They bit, they glared, gave blows like beams, a wind went with their paws;  
With wallowing might and stifled roar they rolled on one another;  
Till all the pit with sand and mane was in a thunderous smother;  
The bloody foam above the bars came whisking through the air;  
Said Francis then, "Faith, gentleman, we're better here than there."

- What kind of royal sport was in progress? Who all were witnessing it? [3]
- Briefly describe the sport. [3]
- Who was Francis? What did he mean by, 'Faith, gentlemen, we're better here than there.'? [3]
- Who was fascinated by Francis' comment? What thought struck her? [3]
- How did she put her thoughts into action? What could have happened to De Lorge? How did he react when he came back safe from the pit? [4]

## Question 7

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

And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly. Spaces fill  
with a kind of  
soothing electric vibration.

- a. What does the fall of great trees symbolise in the poem? Why does it become difficult to breathe when great souls die? [3]
- b. In what state of mind is the speaker here? How is nature affected by the fall of great trees? [3]
- c. How does the poet portray time as a healer here? Which words in the above line portrays time as a healer? [3]
- d. Explain the phrases 'always irregularly' and 'soothing electric vibration'. [3]
- e. What kind of 'spaces' are referred to here? How do we feel during those spaces? The ending of the poem is quite positive. How? [4]

THE END