

# PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION: 2024-2025

CLASS: X

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

NAME OF THE STUDENT: .....

MAX.MARKS:80

DATE: .....

TIME:2HOURS

**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.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ cries out, "Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead! Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets."
  - Cinna
  - Brutus
  - Antony
  - Publius
- About whose arrival does the servant inform Antony?
  - Trebonius and Cleopatra
  - Titinius and Octavius
  - Octavius and Lepidus
  - Titinius and Lepidus
- Cinna the \_\_\_\_\_ enters on his way to Caesar's funeral, followed by the plebeians.
  - Conspirator
  - Traitor
  - Poet
  - Teacher
- About whom does Brutus say, "A hot friend cooling. Ever note, Lucilius, When love begins to sicken and decay, It useth an enforced ceremony."
  - Cassius
  - Octavius
  - Antony
  - None of the above.
- How does Portia die?
  - Swallows hot coals
  - Cuts her veins
  - Drinks poison
  - Hangs herself
- Cassius talks about an omen where he sees birds flying above the army and looking down at them as if they are prey. Which birds is he talking about?
  - Eagles
  - Penguins
  - Carrion
  - None of the above
- The phrase 'hold in mortmain' implies .....

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JAVA  
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- a. Temporary ownership
- b. Permanent ownership
- c. No ownership
- d. Mortgaged

8. Which figure of speech is used in the line 'We can be. Be and be' from H.W. Longfellow's poem 'Haunted Houses'?

- a. Personification
- b. Irony
- c. Alliteration
- d. Simile

9. Why did the mite falter and hesitate?

- a. It was happy.
- b. It was terrified.
- c. It was cunning.
- d. It did not know what to do.

10. Which of these statements is NOT true?

- a. Human listeners cannot tolerate Bhisma's noisy singing.
- b. Animals too protest against Bhisma's noisy singing.
- c. Only the sky remains watching carelessly.
- d. Big trees and buildings collapse under the impact of Bhisma's loud voice.

11. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from Leigh Hunt's poem 'The Glove and the Lions' in the correct order.

1. De Lorge's beloved dropped her glove into the arena.
  2. De Lorge's beloved overheard the King's comment.
  3. King Francis and others present were enjoying a royal sport -the sport of lion fighting.
  4. The King commented that they were better off where they were, away from danger.
- a. 1,2,3,4
  - b. 3,4,2,1
  - c. 4,3,1,2
  - d. 2,4,1,3

12. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements 1 and 2 from Stephen Leacock's short story 'With the Photographer'.

**Statement 1:** The photographer was satisfied with the author's face.

**Statement 2:** The author burst out and blasted the photographer with a bitter rebuke and scorn.

- 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.

13. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- a. Adjoa was seven years old.
- b. Nana is a dominating woman in contrast to the mother.
- c. Nana affirms that a woman should have legs that have meat on them, with good calves.
- d. Adjoa did not win the race in the end.

14. Who among these was not there on the back benches in the short story 'The Last Lesson'?

- a. Former mayor
- b. Former Postman
- c. The headmaster
- d. Old Hauser

15. On which floor was Martin's father going to meet Mrs Ullman?

- a. 4<sup>th</sup> floor
- b. 9<sup>th</sup> floor
- c. 14th floor
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

16. Why had Mead worn sneakers while walking in the short story 'The Pedestrian'?
- a. They were smart.
  - b. He liked wearing them.
  - c. They were comfortable.
  - d. They would not make a noise and attract attention.

### 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:

**Cassius:** Give me thy hand, Messala:

Be thou my witness that against my will,  
 (As Pompey was) am I compelled to set  
 Upon one battle all our liberties.  
 You know that I held Epicurus strong  
 And his opinion. Now I change my mind

- a. Who was Messala? Where was Messala and Cassius at this time and why? [3]
- b. Why did Cassius say 'against my will'? What did he fear? [3]
- c. Who was Epicurus? What was his opinion? What do the words 'now I change my mind' tell us what Cassius feared? [3]
- d. What does Brutus decide to do in case of defeat? Why? [3]
- e. In what manner was Cassius' fear justified later? Do you feel that Cassius was a better judge of military matters than Brutus? Give your reason as briefly as possible. [4]

#### Question 3

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

**Brutus:** O Cassius, I am sick of many griefs.

**Cassius:** Of your philosophy you make no use  
 If you give place to accidental evils.

**Brutus:** No man bears sorrow better. Portia is dead.

**Cassius:** How 'scap'd I killing when I cross'd you so?  
 O insupportable and touching loss!

- a. Where are the speakers now? State the moods in which they were a while ago, and their present moods? [3]
- b. What is the 'philosophy' referred to in line two? And what is its teaching as is relevant here? Does Brutus deserve this mild blame from Cassius? Give a reason. [3]
- c. Show the violent manner in which Cassius had angered Brutus. State two of Brutus' accusations against Cassius which provoked the latter. Brutus also makes a bitter, personal complaint against Cassius. What was it? [3]
- d. Explain in simple words: 'O insupportable and touching loss!' How does Brutus account for his touching loss? Name two of the virtues of the lady, that shines through her death? [3]
- e. Show how the scene towards the end indicates ill for Brutus. How does he react then? [3]



## 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 Alphonse Daudet's short story, 'The Last Lesson' given below and answer the questions that follow:

I jumped over the bench and sat down at my desk. Not till then, When I had got a little over my fright, did I see that our teacher had on his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt, and the little black silk cap, all embroidered, that he never wore except on inspection and prize days. Besides, the whole school seemed so strange and solemn.

- What kind of teacher was M. Hamel? What did he teach? [3]
- Why was Franz frightened? Did the teacher punish him? What happened when he entered the classroom? [3]
- What was M. Hamel wearing? Why? [3]
- How did M Hamel treat his students? Later, what does he say about the French language? [3]
- What did he write on the blackboard in the end and why? Why was he so sentimental? [4]

## Question 5

Read the extract by William Sleator's short story, 'The Elevator' given below and answer the questions that follow:

But he didn't get used to it. He was always afraid that it would stop suddenly and he would be trapped inside it for hours by himself. But it wasn't much better when there were other passengers. He didn't like to be close to them. He also disliked the way people tried hard not to look at one another, staring at nothing.

One morning the elevator stopped at the fourteenth floor, and a fat lady got on.

- Describe the apartment to which Martin and his father had shifted recently. How old was Martin? [3]
- What made Martin uncomfortable in the elevator? What are we told about the door of the elevator? [3]
- What kind of a boy was Martin? Earlier, why does his father get upset with him? [3]
- At which floor did the elevator stop? Who got in the elevator? What time of the day was it then? [3]
- What was the lady wearing? Describe her. What was her behaviour while in the elevator with the boy? [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 from Robert Frost's poem 'A Considerable Speck' given below and answer the questions that follow:

Then in the middle of the open sheet  
Cower down in desperation to accept  
Whatever I accorded it of fate.

I have none of the tenderer-than-thou  
 Collectivistic regimenting love  
 With which the modern world is being swept.  
 But this poor microscopic item now!  
 Since it was nothing I knew evil of  
 I let it lie there till I hope it slept

- What is a speck? What did it turn to be? What had the poet been doing? [3]
- What did it do to save itself? Why did the poet appreciate its moves? [3]
- What position did it take eventually? In what state was it? [3]
- Explain 'Collectivistic regimenting love'. What is its relevance in the context? [3]
- Which ideology is being criticized in the above lines? What was it that stopped the poet from killing it? [4]

**Question 7**

Read the extract from H.W. Longfellow's poem 'Haunted Houses' given below and answer the questions that follow:

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

- What kind of ghosts are imagined by the poet earlier in the context? Where do we meet them? Are they visible? [3]
- Who are the uninvited guests at the table? Why are they there uninvited? What is surprising about these uninvited guests? [3]
- What is meant by "As silent as the pictures on the wall"? Which figure of speech is used in this line? [3]
- What can the speaker see and hear which others cannot? Why do the spirits visit their former dwellings? [3]
- How do the spirits of the dead come to our world? How does the poet describe the spirit world? What do the departed spirits claim from their graves? [4]

**THE END**