



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2024

ENGLISH II - LITERATURE

CLASS - X

TIME: 2 Hours

MM: 80

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]

Q 1) Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

[16]

(Do not copy the questions, write the correct answers only)

- 1) Cassius and Brutus make up their minds to die rather than be taken as prisoners. What trait of character is revealed in their behaviour?
 - a) Pride
 - b) Resignation
 - c) Sadism
 - d) Pessimism
- 2) According to Antony how was Caesar brought by?
 - a) Like a stag by hounds.
 - b) Like a goat by butchers.
 - c) Like a dog by hunters.
 - d) None of the above.
- 3) Cassius' reference to ravens, crows and kites taking the place of two mighty eagles that accompanied their armies from Sardis tells us that he is-
 - a) filled with superstitious dread.
 - b) happier in the company of birds.
 - c) an expert bird watcher.
 - d) not a believer in superstition.
- 4) The philosophy that Brutus believes in and practices-
 - a) Stoicism
 - b) Buddhism
 - c) cynicism
 - d) epicureanism
- 5) What does Mark Antony intend to do after getting Caesar's will?
 - a) Change Caesar's will to fund the civil war.
 - b) Cut down the amount of money bequeathed by Caesar.
 - c) Read it publicly.
 - d) Replace it with fake will.
- 6) How does the speaker describe the world around the speck?
 - a) Colourful and lively.
 - b) Vibrant and positive.
 - c) Vast and indifferent.
 - d) Chaotic and bustling.
- 7) Name the poetic device used in the title of the poem, 'A Considerable Speck'?
 - a) Personification
 - b) Metaphor
 - c) Hyperbole
 - d) Oxymoron
- 8) Why did the lady in Leigh Hunt's poem, 'The Lion and the Gloves' drop the glove in the arena?
 - a) To create a distraction for the sake of entertainment.
 - b) To show off her lover to all present in the court.
 - c) To attain great glory from the valour of her lover.
 - d) To test the valour of her lover.
- 9) Bhisma Lochan Sharma sang as if he -
 - i. was hell-bent.
 - ii. was the best singer in the city.
 - iii. staked his life on it.
 - iv. earned his living from it.
 - a) (i)
 - b) (ii)
 - c) Both (i) and (ii)
 - d) Both (i) and (iii)
- 10) What does the phrase "panic rout" imply in the poem The Power of Music?
 - a) Solemn parade
 - b) Unhappy occasion
 - c) Celebration
 - d) Chaotic situation



- 11) The central idea of Angelou's poem 'When Great Trees Fall' is that-
- when a gigantic tree falls, it affects all the trees in the jungle.
 - the death of an ancient tree disturbs all the animals in the jungle.
 - the impact of the death of a loved one on those struggling to cope with the loss.
 - life will never be the same after the loss of a loved one.
- 12) Why did the police car respond 'No profession' when Mead said that he was a writer by profession?
- The robotic car could not understand its meaning.
 - It was an outdated profession.
 - Mead was not a licenced writer.
 - The profession did not suit his personality.
- 13) Which of the following mean 'draft' as used in the story, 'The Last Lesson'?
- A written order by bank to pay someone.
 - The first or early copy of a piece of writing.
 - The order forcing someone to join the army.
 - A flow of cold air that comes in a room.
- 14) Which of the given options contains the same literary device that appears in the following line of Sukumar Ray's poem 'The Power of Music': *The welkin weeps to hear his screech.*
- The sun was shining on the sea, shining with all his might.
 - The shower beat, On broken blinds and chimney-pots.
 - Beauty's effect with beauty were bereft.
 - Parting in such sweet sorrow.
- 15) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order:
- We plead and grumble.
 - But now there comes a billy goat.
 - Trees collapse and shake.
 - They whine and stare with feet in air.
- 1,2,3,4
 - 4,2,3,1
 - 2,3,4,1
 - 4,3,1,2
- 16) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements I and II.
- Statement I: The photographer pursed his lips in a pleased smile.
Statement II: He accomplished his scientific pursuit.
- Statement II is the cause for Statement I.
 - Statement II is true, and Statement I is false.
 - Statement I and Statement II are independent of each other.
 - Statement I is true, and Statement II is false.

SECTION - B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

DRAMA

(JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare)

Q 2) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Antony : *Yet, stay awhile;
Thou shalt not back till I have borne the corpse
Into the market-place: there shall I try,
In my oration, how the people take
The cruel issue of these bloody men.*

- To whom is Antony speaking? Why is this person here? Where are they?
- What had Antony just said to this person before telling him to "stay awhile"? How did this person help Antony?
- Explain the meaning of "oration". What does this passage reveal to us about what Antony proposed to do?
- Earlier, Antony said, "Over thy wounds now do I prophesy." Mention any three points of his prophesy.
- Which trait of Antony's nature is shown in this passage? Give examples of two other occasions in the play where a different aspect of his character is shown-distinct from the one shown in this extract.

Q 3) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Brutus : *Farewell to you; and you and you Volumnius.
Strato, thou hast been all the while asleep;
Farewell to thee too Strato Countrymen,
My heart doth joy that yet in all my life
I found no man but he was true to me.
I shall have glory by this losing day,
More than Octavius and Mark Antony By this vile conquest shall attain unto.*



- 1) Where does this scene take place? Who all are present with Brutus? Why is Brutus bidding farewell to all his companions? [3]
- 2) Why does Brutus's heart fill with joy? Why is he happy on this day which would be his last? [3]
- 3) Later, how does Antony, who is the greatest enemy of Brutus praise him? Give any three points. [3]
- 4) In his last words before dying, why does Brutus tell Caesar to now rest in peace? Why had Caesar not been in peace till now? [3]
- 5) Brutus was a symbol of republicanism and the spirit of democracy. Do you agree with this statement? Give two reasons for your answer. [4]

SECTION - C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE-SHORT STORIES

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

Q 4) Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follows

Sometimes he would walk for hours and miles and return only at midnight to his house. And on his way, he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest glimmers of firefly light appeared in flickers behind the windows. Suddengray phantoms seemed to manifest upon inner room walls where a curtain was still undrawn against the night, or there were whisperings and murmurs where a window in a tomblike building was still open.

- 1) Who is 'he' referred to? Why would he walk for hours and hours? [3]
- 2) Why does he say that, 'it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard'? [3]
- 3) What was the only movement on the long and empty street? What has it been compared to? [3]
- 4) What does 'he' apprehend about the people in the house? Why does he first pause at the window of a house and then walk ahead? [3]
- 5) Humans today are adept at technology. Do you think this would lead us to a dystopian society? Do you wish to be a part of a dystopian future? If yes, why? If no, give suggestions to possibly avoid it. [4]

Q 5) Read the extract from Alphonse Daudet's short story, 'The Last Lesson' and answer the questions that follow:

What a thunder -clap those words were to me!

Oh! the wretches, that was what they put up at the town hall.

My last French lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn any more!

- 1) Who is 'wretches' referred to in the given extract? Who taught French to Franz? Why would it be Franz's last lesson? [3]
- 2) What homework did Franz get from his teacher? What was he tempted to do instead of going to the class? [3]
- 3) After getting to know that it would be his last lesson, what sudden changes do Franz observe in himself? [3]
- 4) What was the teacher's reaction when Franz was unable to recite his homework? Who does the teacher blame for this negligence toward learning? Why were they to be blamed? [3]
- 5) How is Franz's teacher's patriotism reflected? What is the last tip of the last lesson given by the teacher to all present there? [4]

SECTION - D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

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

Q 6) Read the extract from H.W. Longfellow's poem, 'Haunted Houses' and answer the questions that follow:

We meet them at the door way, on the stair, Along the passages they come and go, Impalpable impressions on the air, A sense of something moving to and fro

- 1) Who are 'We' in the first line of the extract? Who are 'them' whom 'We' meet in the house? How are they unlike their popular image? [3]
- 2) Name the places where we meet 'them'? How do they enter these places? [3]
- 3) Give any three characteristic features of 'them' as mentioned in the poem. [3]
- 4) Who are the 'owners' and the present occupants of the house? What do the owners still hold onto? [3]
- 5) The poet feels that all houses are haunted. Do you agree with the poet? Give reasons to justify your answer. [4]



Q 7) Read the extract from Robert Frost's poem 'A Considerable Speck' and answer the questions that follow:

*But this poor microscopic item now!
Since it was nothing I knew evil of I'll
let it lie there till I hope it slept. I have
a mind myself and recognise
Mind when I meet with it in any guise.*

- 1) What is 'this poor microscopic item' referred to? When did the speaker notice it? What did he think about it when he first noticed it? [3]
- 2) What does the poet mean by 'I have a mind of my own'? What made the poet realise that 'the microscopic item' had a mind of its own? [3]
- 3) What does the poet choose to do with 'the microscopic item'? Which ideology does the reason for his choice contradict? How does he use 'the microscopic item' as a satire to this ideology? [3]
- 4) Why did 'the microscopic item' cower down in the middle of the page? What was it ready to accept? [3]
- 5) Explain the phrase 'in any guise'. What is the feeling expressed by the poet at the end of this extract? Why? [4]