

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 the 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

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets

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SECTION A

Question 1

Choose the correct option:

[16]

1. Why is Casca breathless and staring when he meets Cicero?

- a) He has just been in a fight
- b) He has just witnessed a natural disaster
- c) He has just seen strange and terrifying omens
- d) None of the above

2. What does Cassius suggest would be the possible cause of the strange events?

- a) they are the result of the strange disposition of the time
- b) They are a sign of the end of the world
- c) They are man made
- d) Heavens has infused them with spirits to make them instruments of fear and warning

3. How does Caesar react to the Soothsayer's warning?

- a) he takes it seriously
- b) He dismisses it as the ravings of a dreamer
- c) He orders the Soothsayer's arrest
- d) He thanks him for the warning

4. What is the significance of the *Ides of March* in the play, 'Julius Caesar'?

- a) it marks the start of a new month
- b) it is a day of celebration
- c) it is the day of Caesar's assassination
- d) none of the above

5. In the line, 'What other bond, than secret Romans that have spoke the word and will not palter?', the word 'palter' means:

- a) are spirited
- b) set aflame
- c) urge
- d) cheat

6. The phrase, '*crippled brain*' is an example of
- personification
 - alliteration
 - simile
 - assonance
7. The historical novel set in World War II, '*Gone To Soldiers*' was authored by:
- Marge Piercy
 - Thomas Eliot
 - Satyajit Ray
 - Oscar Wilde
8. In the poem, '*A Work of Artifice*', the bonsai tree metaphorically represents a
- parrot
 - stunted tree
 - woman
 - child
9. The poetic works, '*Mappings and Beastly Tales*' was composed by :
- Vikram Seth
 - T.S Eliot
 - Alfred Lord Tennyson
 - Wystan Hugh Auden
10. In the poem, '*A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6th, 1945*', the nakedness of the victims is symbolic of:
- Loss of pride
 - Freedom
 - Happiness
 - None of the above
11. In 1948, which of these literary personalities won the Nobel Prize for literature:
- Thomas Hood
 - Thomas. S. Eliot
 - Oscar Wilde
 - Charles Dickens
12. The theme of the story, '*The Homecoming*' is:
- state of confusion
 - responsibility
 - isolation
 - both b & c
13. The word 'heralds' in the phrase '*such dreadful heralds to astonish us*' refers to
- neglect of duties
 - lack of respect

- c) restlessness
- d) omens

14. Besides his injured neck, what harm did the spook do to Bonku Babu?

- a) He was beaten by the spook
- b) He was forced to sing
- c) his new kurta was torn and black stains were smeared on it
- d) He was attacked by a spook

15. The phrase, '*hunt the thimble*' in the poem Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat means:

- a) play a game
- b) hunt for the station master
- c) look for luggage
- d) hunt for an object

16. The bonsai tree would have grown 80 feet tall, but had been reduced to this height:

- a) 6 inches
- b) 9 inches
- c) 19 inches
- d) 10 inches

SECTION B

(Answer One or more questions from this Section)

Drama

Julius Caesar

Question 2

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

Cassius: '*I know that virtue to be in you Brutus
As well as I do know your outward favour.
Well, honour is the subject of my story.
I cannot tell what you and other men
think of this life....*'

i) Where are Brutus and Cassius at this time? Complete the dialect and state the meaning of the phrase, '*I cannot tell what you and other men think of this life....*' (3)

ii) Which virtue of Brutus is Cassius referring to in the first line? What happens immediately after Cassius' speech? How does it help Cassius to rouse the feelings of Brutus against Caesar? (3)

iii) Mention the two incidents which Cassius cites later in this discussion, to suggest that Caesar is as weak as any other human being (3)

iv) What was the reference to the 'Great Flood'? Who made this reference? In which context was it made? (3)

v) State the meaning of the following lines: (4)

- a) *For the eye sees not itself
But by reflection by some other things.*
b) *I rather tell thee what is to fear'd
than what I fear; for always I am Caesar.*

Question 3

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

*Caesar: ' Cowards die many times before their deaths;
the valiant never taste of death but once
of all the wonders that I yet have heard
it seems to me most strange.....'*

- i) Where does the scene take place? At the onset of the scene, what had the speaker commented? (3)
ii) Complete the above dialect in your own words. Why had Caesar spoken of cowards? (3)
iii) What had Calpurnia remarked just before the above extract? What does it show? (3)
iv) How had Cassius expressed his doubt whether Caesar would come to the Capitol that day or choose to stay at home? (3)
v) How does Decius convince Cassius that he would bring Caesar to the Capitol that day? (4)

SECTION C

(Answer One or more questions from this Section)

PROSE

Question 4

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

'Mrs Srivastava had to do some shopping. She gave instructions to the ayah...'

- i) State the instructions given by Mrs. Shrivastava to the servants. Where was she headed? Why? (3)
ii) What did Mrs. Srivastava reveal to Mrs. Bhushan? What was her reply? (3)
iii) What did the elderly gentleman at Deep Chand's barber shop mean when he remarked, '*the bird has flown*': How did it add to the possible collapse of the bank? (3)
iv) Who do you think is truly responsible for the breaking of the bank? Give reasons to support your answer. (3)
v) Who was Ganpat? What was the shocking sight seen by the people at the marketplace when he heard the news? (4)

Question 5

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

'it was at this crucial juncture that the grey-haired stranger arrived. He asked what the matter was. Phatik looked sheepish and ashamed.'

- i) What was the '*crucial juncture*' ? Who was the stranger? (3)
- ii) Why did Phatik feel sheepish and ashamed at the sight of the stranger? (3)
- iii) According to the mother, what was the difference between the two brothers? What did the stranger offer to do? (3)
- iv) What was the constant fear of the mother? What did Phatik bequeath to Makhan? Why did he do it? What does the word '*bequeath*' imply? (3)
- v) List the things and places that Phatik missed about his village life and caused great longing and sorrow to him (4)

SECTION D

(Answer One or more questions from this Section)

POETRY

Question 6

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

*'Every day as he
whittles back the branches
the gardener croons,
it is your nature
to be small and cosy'*

- i) Why does the gardener 'croon' every day? Who is the 'gardener'? What is his purpose? (3)
- ii) What are the different skills that a woman is expected to display? To whom she must display these skills? Why? (3)
- iii) Justify the title, 'A Work of Artifice' in your own words (3)
- iv) What do the phrases, 'crippled brain' and 'bound feet' suggest? (3)
- v) Explain the irony in the following line: (4)
*'how lucky, little tree
to have a pot to grow in.'*

Question 7

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

*'You may say that by and large it is Skimble who's in charge
of the Sleeping Car Express'*

- i) Who are the different people that Skimbleshanks supervises? Why do they need supervision (3)

- ii) Compare the facilities of the train cabin that Skimble supervises, with the facilities of a cabin in today's train (3)
- iii) Were the passengers scared of Skimbleshanks? Give reasons to support your answer (3)
- iv) How does Skimbleshanks prove his worth at different stations? Mention the names of the stations the train halts at (3)
- v) State the different ways in which Skimble is always alert
How does he manage to look fresh and observant at all times (4)
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