

Greenlawn's high School, Mumbai

ICSE Preliminary Examination 2025

Literature in English

2/1/2025

English Paper-2

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 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 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

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below (Please do not copy the question – simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.) [16]

- (i) What was Antony's concluding line of his speech to the citizens?
 - (a) "Bring me to Octavius."
 - (b) "Hear me with patience."
 - (c) "Here was a Caesar! when comes such another?"
 - (d) "Now let it work..."

- (ii) What does the servant inform Antony about Brutus and Cassius?
 - (a) They had to leave Rome and run for their lives.
 - (b) They had been killed by the mob.
 - (c) They had been arrested.
 - (d) They had to hide indoors.

- (iii) There seems to be a difference of opinion between.....
 - (a) Antony and Octavius over Lepidus.
 - (b) Lepidus and Octavius over Brutus.
 - (c) Octavius and Lepidus over Antony.
 - (d) Antony and Lepidus over Cassius.

(iv) Write in the correct sequence of order what Brutus said in Act IV Scene 2:

1. "Let Lucilius and Titinius guard our door."
2. "Judge me, you gods! Wrong I mine enemies?"
3. "Thou hast describ'd, a hot friend cooling."
4. "He greets me well. Your master, Pindarus."

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

(v) What did Pindarus tell himself after he stabs Cassius?

- (a) He will never desert Cassius.
- (b) He will stay by his side.
- (c) He is now free to run so far away that no Roman can find him.
- (d) He will run away to Rome to become a Roman citizen.

(vi) According to Brutus who was "The last of all the Romans?"

- (a) Cassius
- (b) Titinius
- (c) Pindarus
- (d) He himself

(vii) In the poem, 'Haunted Houses' by H.W. Longfellow, what does the phrase 'hold in mortmain' mean?

- (a) temporary ownership
- (b) permanent ownership
- (c) no ownership
- (d) mortgaged

(viii) In the poem, 'The Glove and the Lions,' by Leigh Hunt, after having retrieved his beloved's glove from the lion's pit, De Lorge threw it at her face.

Which of the following words will be inappropriate for this mood?

- (a) sullen
- (b) indifferent
- (c) angry
- (d) upset

- (ix) What did the poet Robert Frost in the poem, 'A Considerable Speck' admire in the mite?
- (a) the mite's colour
 - (b) the mite's intelligence
 - (c) the mite being fearful
 - (d) the mite running in terror
- (x) 'And Bhisma Lochan grants the world the golden gift of silence' What does this line convey?
- (a) fear
 - (b) joy
 - (c) sense of relief
 - (d) indifference
- (xi) In the poem, 'When Great Trees Fall' by Maya Angelou, which of these assertions is NOT true??
- (a) Fall of great trees symbolises the death of great men.
 - (b) In one way or the other all feel affected when great men die.
 - (c) It is futile to remember those who leave us suddenly.
 - (d) One cannot help recall good moments lived in the company of the dear departed.
- (xii) In the story, 'With the Photographer' by Stephen Leacock, on meeting the narrator, how did the photographer look at the narrator?
- (a) cheerfully
 - (b) with enthusiasm
 - (c) without enthusiasm
 - (d) indifferently
- (xiii) In the story, 'The Elevator' by William Sleator, which floor was Martin's father going to meet Mrs. Ullman?
- (a) fourth
 - (b) ninth
 - (c) fourteenth
 - (d) third
- (xiv) In the end of the story, 'The Girl Who Can,' what had Nana transformed into?
- (a) A kill joy
 - (b) A progressive dynamic woman
 - (c) An orthodox woman
 - (d) Making compromise with the way of the world.

- (xv) What genre is the story 'The Pedestrian'?
- horror
 - futuristic
 - imaginative
 - romantic
- (xvi) In the story, 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet, what was written in the new copy books?
- France
 - Alsace
 - Lorraine
 - France, Alsace, France, Alsace

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: *What do you think of marching to Philippi presently?*

Cassius: *I do not think it good.*

- At this moment, where were Brutus and Cassius? A while ago, what was the bad news that Messala delivered to Brutus? [3]
- Why did Cassius think it was not a good idea to march to Philippi? [3]
- Previously, Messala had received letters, what were the contents of the letters received by Messala? [3]
- How did Brutus compare the voyage of life to the voyage at sea? [3]
- What are Brutus's reasons for marching to Philippi immediately? [4]

Question 3

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

Pindarus: *Titinius is enclosed round about*

With horsemen, that make to him on the spur:

- Who sent Titinius to find the horsemen? Why? [3]
- Why was Pindarus sent higher on that hill? [3]
 - Explain the line, "My life is run his compass" [3]
- Who was Pindarus? What promise did he make to a certain individual? [3]

- (iv) a. When Titinius saw the deceased body of his friend, what were the two phrases by which Titinius addressed his deceased friend?
 b. In the battlefield in Philippi, what error did Brutus make? [3]
- (v) a. Why did Titinius crown his dead friend?
 b. Where was Titinius's deceased friend's body to be sent? Why? [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 from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'The Pedestrian' given below and answer the questions that follow:

Sometimes he would walk for hours and miles and return only at midnight to his house.

- (i) To whom is 'he' referring? On his way, what did 'he' observe? To what did 'he' compare the objects? [3]
- (ii) What time of the day, month and year was 'he' experiencing? [3]
- (iii) Why did 'he' change his footwear to sneakers? [3]
- (iv) a. A little later, whom did 'he' encounter?
 b. What made 'he' a nonconformist for the authorities in the city? [3]
- (v) a. Due to his nonconformist behaviour, where was 'he' sent?
 b. Describe the smell of the place where 'he' was placed in due to his nonconformist behaviour. Give one adjective to describe the authority of that age. [4]

Question 5

Read the following extract from 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet and answer the questions given below:

I started for school very late that morning and was in great dread of a scolding.

- (i) To whom is 'I' referring? By whom did 'I' dread to be scolded? Why? [3]
- (ii) According to 'I' from where did bad news come for the last two years? What was the bad news? [3]
- (iii) a. At this juncture, describe the attire of the person dreaded by 'I'.
 b. What did the dreaded individual always carry under his arm? [3]
- (iv) Who all were seated on the back benches of the dreaded individual's last lesson? Why? [3]
- (v) Why was this the last lesson of the dreaded individual? [4]

SECTION D

(Answer any **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:

'A speck that would have been beneath my sight.'

- (i) Name the figure of speech in the above line. Explain the above line. [3]
- (ii) What did the 'speck' turn out to be? When did the poet realise, he was dealing with a clever being? [3]
- (iii) How did the 'speck' convey to the poet that it did not want to die? [3]
- (iv) a. What kind of mindset did the poet not have?
b. In this context, to what political ideology was the poet referring? [3]
- (v) a. What is the figure of speech of the title of the poem, 'A Considerable Speck'?
b. What refrained the poet from taking the life of the 'speck'? [4]

Question 7

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

You catch his strain on hill and plain from Delhi down to Burma.

- (i) Name the figure of speech in the above line. To whom is 'his' referring? What is the genre of this poem? [3]
- (ii) How were people affected by 'his' singing? [3]
- (iii) How did animals react to 'his' singing? [3]
- (iv) How was nature affected by 'his' singing? [3]
- (v) Name the creature who puts an end to 'his' singing. How did this creature put an end to 'his' singing? [4]