
You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes. 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.

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 the questions are given in brackets[]

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this section)

Question 1. Choose the correct option: [16]

1. Mark Antony foretells what Caesar's spirit will bring about: it will:

- a) make Rome a Republic
- b) make Rome a Democratic nation
- c) suppress emotions of compassions
- d) summon mass slaughter and plunder

2. Brutus sets certain conditions for Mark Antony before allowing him to speak at Caesar's funeral. In what sequence are the following statements made?

- i. Say you do it by our permission
- ii. You shall not in your funeral speech blame us
- iii. speak all good you can devise of Julius Caesar
- iv. You shall speak in the same pulpit whereto I am going

- a) (iii), (ii), (i), (iv)
- b) (ii), (i), (iii), (iv)
- c) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)
- d) (iii), (i), (iv), (ii)

3. What is the primary theme of the story, '*The Girl Who Can*'?

- a) the struggles of rural life
- b) The beauty between tradition and modernity
- c) The importance of education and self-empowerment.
- d) The experience of teenage love.

4. Infer the message regarding fear that can be interpreted from William Sleator's short story, '*The Elevator*'

- a) fear can be easily conquered with support
- b) Fears can sometimes be irrational, but are deeply felt
- c) Facing your fears leads to bravery
- d) Fear is a weakness that should be hidden

5. ***'Et tu Brute! Then fall, Caesar!'***

How do you think Caesar was feeling when he said this line?

- a) angry
- b) Tormented
- c) Betrayed
- d) Relieved

6. How would you describe the conclusion given by William's Sleator in his short story, ***'The Elevator'***?

- a) a definitive resolution to the conflict
- b) a cliffhanger that leaves the reader in suspense
- c) a happy ending when all fears are addressed
- d) a humorous twist that lightens the story's tone

7. Which of the following options contains the same figure of speech that appears in the following line ***'as silent as the pictures on the wall'***?

- a) Memory is a diary that we carry with us
- b) his words were a dagger to the heart
- c) the news hit me like a freight train.
- d) It is raining cats and dogs.

8. Which of the following personality had a dream about dining with Julius Caesar?

- a) Popilius Lena
- b) Cinna, the poet
- c) Metellus Cimber
- d) Marcus Brutus

9. The conspirators aimed to establish a republic, yet their actions resulted in chaos and mob rule. The statement is:

- a) Metaphorical
- b) Ironical
- c) Dramatic
- d) Allegorical

10. When Cassius says, 'Trebonius knows his time' he means :

- a) Trebonius knows the right moment to draw Mark Antony aside in conversation.
- b) Trebonius is confident that the plan will succeed
- c) Trebonius realises that something is wrong needs to address
- d) Trebonius is aware that his brother was banished by decree

11. In Maya Angelo's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall', what feeling does the last line, ***'For they existed'*** evoke?

- a) regret
- b) joyful acceptance
- c) grief
- d) pain from the loss

12. Which of the following options contains the same literary device as the given line from the poem '**A Considerable Speck**'?

'On any but a paper sheet so white'

- a) *Soon, the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells*
- b) *Ten Thousand saw I at a glance*
- c) *Silver and Blue as the Mountain mist*
- d) *Half a league, Half a league onward*

13. In the poem, 'The Glove and the Lions', the glove thrown by Count de Lorge's lady love suggests:

- a) *mediaeval setting with courage and chivalry or not valued*
- b) *The risk of letting angle control one's behaviour*
- c) *How vanity can cloud one's judgement of the situation*
- d) *Danger in the pit, where the Lions were fighting*

14. What is the genre of the poem, '**The Power of Music**'?

- a) *Ballad*
- b) *Sonnet*
- c) *Nonsense words*
- d) *Free verse*

15. In Maya Angelo's poem, '**When Great Trees Fall**', the despair felt by the bereaved person is described as---

- a) *A cold dark cave.*
- b) *promised walks never taken*
- c) *light, rare, sterile air*
- d) *electric vibration*

16. In Stephen Leacock's short story, '**With The Photographer**', the Photographer's actions of altering the author's photograph can be considered as:

- a) *insensitive*
- b) *eccentric*
- c) *an enthusiastic*
- d) *mannerless*

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:

'There is my dagger, and here is my naked breast.

Within a heart, dearer than Pluto's mine,

Richer than gold

If thou be'st a Roman, take it forth.'

- a) What has made Cassius dejected? What were Cassius' complaints against Brutus before these lines? (3)
- b) What is the allusion of 'Pluto'? What does Cassius mean when he says that his heart is dearer than Pluto's mine? Why does Cassius compare his heart to Pluto's mine? (3)
- c) According to Cassius, how should Brutus strike him? What does he say about Brutus' love for Cassius? What trait of Cassius is highlighted in this extract? (3)
- d) How does Brutus pacify Cassius? Explain using the comparison, he draws between himself and the lamb. (3)
- e) A little later in the scene, Brutus overrules Cassius' suggestion about the enemy seeking them. Give any three reasons Brutus gives for the same. Why do you think Cassius agrees with Brutus, despite his own judgement (4)

Question 3

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

Caesar: 'I could be well mov'd, if I were as you; if I could pray to move, prayers would move me; but I am constant as the northern star,
Of whose true- fix'd and resting quality
There is no fellow in the firmament.'

- a) What are the conspirators attempting to 'move' Caesar to do?
How does Caesar contrast himself and the others, in the first two lines of this extract? (3)
- b) What comparison does Caesar draw between himself and the Northern star in the above extract? What else does he comment about the northern star in the subsequent lines? (3)
- c) Explain the line, ***I do know but one That unassailable holds on his rank*** (3)
Expound the use of irony in the statement
- d) Who is the next person to make his petition? How does Julius Caesar put him off? What is the allusion in his response? (3)
- e) In this scene, Julius Caesar frequently refers to himself in the third person and ignores the warnings of the Soothsayer and Artemidorus. On the basis of this statement and the above excerpt, what inferences can be made about Caesar's character? (4)

Section C

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

PROSE-SHORT STORIES

TREASURE CHEST-A COLLECTION OF ICSE SHORT AND POEMS

Question 4

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

'Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday-clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room.'

- a) Who is referred to as the 'Poor man'? Why was this the last lesson? [3]
- b) Why were the **old men of the village sitting in the back of the room**? Mention any two of them [3]
- c) Why did the 'Poor man' call out Franz's name? How did Franz react? Why was it difficult for him to sneak into the class unnoticed? [3]
- d) How had the 'Poor man' changed his attitude and attire compared to his earlier self? [3]
- e) How does this lesson show that our language is closely linked to our cultural identity? What did the 'Poor man' do to instil a sense of pride for their country? Express your ideas about patriotism [4]

Question 5

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

"Sit there" he said, "and wait". I waited an hour.

..... ----and then he was out again, tearing at the cotton sheet and the window panes with a hooked stick, apparently frantic for light and air.'

- a) What does the long wait show about the professionalism of the photographer? Describe the photographer's appearance (3)
- b) '**We both looked at it in silence**' What were the feelings of the photographer and the narrator at this time? Name two processes that are used by the photographers to change the features in a photograph (3)
- c) Which of the narrator's facial features had the photographer altered and how? (3)
- d) What was the only part of the narrator's face that seemed original? Which trait of the photographer is highlighted at this point in the story? (3)
- e) Why did the narrator call the photograph '**a worthless bauble**'? How would you justify the narrator's angry outburst? Express your views about the world of paparazzi and photo shop techniques (4)

Section D

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

POETRY

TREASURE CHEST-A COLLECTION OF ICSE SHORT AND POEMS

Question 6

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

The stranger at my fire side cannot see.

The forms I see, not hear the sounds I hear;

He but perceives what is; while unto me

All that has been visible and clear.

- a) A bridge of light, connecting it with this, Who is the 'I' referred to in the above extract? Who is 'he' in the third line? What are these 'forms'? (3)
- b) Who is the present occupant of the house? How do the perceptions of 'I' and the stranger differ and why? (3)
- c) In which parts of the house we encounter the phantoms? What has been said about their presence? (3)
- d) How does the spirit world coexist with the world of sense? Elucidate (3)
- e) Explain the following lines: (4)
 - i) *Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By opposite attractions and desires;*
 - ii) *So from the world of spirits there descends..'*

Question 7

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

But now there comes a billy goat, a most
sagacious fellow,
He downs his horns and charges straight, with
bellow answ'ring bellow.
The strains of song are tossed and whirled by
blast of brutal violence,
And Bhishma Lochan grants the world the golden
gift of silence.

- a) Who have failed to stop Bhishma Lochan's singing?
Why are they unhappy? How is the billy goat presented here? [3]
 - b) State the ways in which the brutes and the birds react to
Bhishma's singing [3]
 - c) In what ways did the billy goat hit Bhishma Lochan and to what effect? [3]
What is meant by 'bellow answering bellow'?
 - d) What is meant by the '**golden gift of silence**'? Explain in context. [3]
 - e) How do the people, the trees and the shoal of fish react to his singing? [4]
-