

ASSESSMENT - I
ENGLISH LITERATURE, PAPER – 2, GRADE X

M.M: 80
Time : 2 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.)

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]

1. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2):
Statement 1 : Antony requests to speak at Caesar's funeral.

Statement 2 : Brutus agrees but warns Antony not to blame the conspirators.

- a. (1) is true and (2) is false.
- b. (2) is true and (1) is false.
- c. (1) is the cause for (2).
- d. (1) and (2) are independent of each other. [Analysis]

2. What does Brutus claim about his love for Caesar?

- a. He loved Caesar less than others.
- b. He loved Caesar equally as others.
- c. He loved Rome more than Caesar.
- d. He never loved Caesar. [Recall]

3. Choose the correct sequence of events from the scene involving Cinna the poet.
1. Cinna reveals he is going to Caesar's funeral as a friend.
 2. The Plebeians demand Cinna to answer their questions directly.
 3. Cinna says his name is Cinna and is mistaken for a conspirator.
 4. The Plebeians decide to attack him for his name and his bad verses.

- a. 2, 1, 3, 4
- b. 3, 2, 1, 4
- c. 1, 2, 4, 3
- d. 4, 3, 1, 2

[Understanding]

4. How does Antony describe Lepidus once Lepidus exits?
- a. "A dear friend"
 - b. "A slight, unmeritable man"
 - c. "A sly fox who deceives"
 - d. "A generous and loyal ally"

[Recall]

5. What does Brutus insist they must do before their armies?
- a. Solve their quarrel publicly
 - b. Show unity and avoid open strife
 - c. Challenge each other to a duel
 - d. Declare who is in charge

[Recall]

6. How did Portia reportedly end her life, according to Brutus?
- a. She used poison
 - b. She stabbed herself in the heart
 - c. She jumped from the walls of Sardis
 - d. She swallowed fire (hot coals)

[Recall]

7. What is the main problem the photographer has with the narrator's face?
- a. He likes it too much
 - b. He finds it "wrong"
 - c. He thinks it's perfect
 - d. He thinks it's too symmetrical

[Understanding]

8. How does Martin feel about his father's attitude toward his fears?
- a. Thankful for his father's concern
 - b. Comforted by his father's empathy
 - c. Hurt and misunderstood
 - d. Proud that his father notices him

[Understanding]

9. Identify the most logical link between the following statements:

Statement (1) : Nana ridicules Adjoa if she says something deemed "too serious."
Statement (2) : Adjoa avoids revealing her real thoughts about her legs.

- a. (1) is true and (2) is false
- b. (2) is the cause for (1)
- c. (1) is the cause for (2)
- d. (1) and (2) do not affect each other

[Analysis]

10. Why does Mead's face feel cold as he insists he's "just walking"?
- He's frightened by the car's spotlight
 - The temperature suddenly drops
 - He caught a cold earlier
 - He's ashamed to be outdoors
- [Understanding]
11. Identify the proper sequence of these key developments:
- Adjoa wins all her school races at the district sports week.
 - Nana initially disbelieves Adjoa has been chosen to represent the school.
 - Nana proudly washes and irons Adjoa's uniform.
 - Nana verifies the news about Adjoa's athletic selection.
- 2, 4, 3, 1
 - 4, 2, 1, 3
 - 1, 2, 3, 4
 - 3, 2, 1, 4
- [Understanding]
12. How does Mead describe the back seat of the police car?
- Comfortable and plush
 - A small black jail cell
 - Filled with other detainees
 - Stocked with cushions
- [Analysis]
13. In *Haunted Houses*, the line "We meet them at the door-way, on the stair" suggests that the ghosts
- remain locked in the basement
 - appear only once a year
 - are encountered throughout the house's passages
 - vanish whenever morning arrives
- [Analysis]
14. What do "rocks on distant hills" do in response to a great tree's fall?
- They shudder
 - They melt away
 - They grow larger
 - They roll down the slope
- [Recall]
15. Which phrase best captures the mite's movement across the paper?
- Leisurely wandering
 - "Ran with terror and with cunning crept"
 - Floating in the air at random
 - Doing a rhythmic dance
- [Recall]
16. In the poem, 'The Glove and the Lions', who does Count de Lorge 'sigh for'?
- The lions that ramped and roared
 - King Francis who loved a royal sport
 - The nobles who filled the benches
 - The beautiful lively dame
- [Recall]

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

Antony: **I am no orator, as Brutus is;
But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,
That love my friend; and that they know full well
That gave me public leave to speak of him:
For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
To stir men's blood; I only speak right on.**

1. What does Antony mean by "I am no orator, as Brutus is"? [3]
Explain: "But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man." What is Antony's purpose in downplaying his oratory skills? [Recall & Understanding]

2. How does Antony contrast himself with Brutus in this extract? What does Antony mean by "I only speak right on"? [3]
How does this statement reflect Antony's rhetorical strategy? [Recall & Understanding]

3. How does Antony use this moment to manipulate the crowd? [3]
What earlier actions in his speech contribute to his success in swaying the public? [Recall & Understanding]

4. How does this extract reflect the theme of persuasion and rhetoric in the play? [3]
What does this moment foreshadow about the crowd's response to Antony's speech? [Recall & Understanding]

5. Do you think Antony's claim of being a "plain blunt man" is sincere? [4]
Support your answer with reference to Antony's character and actions in the play. [Evaluate & Analysis]

Question 3

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

Cassius : **Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.**

Brutus : **Judge me, you gods! Wrong I mine enemies? And if not so, how should I wrong a brother?**

Cassius : **Brutus, this sober form of yours hides wrongs, And when you do them—**

1. What does Cassius mean by "you have done me wrong"? [3]
What does Brutus mean by "Judge me, you gods!?" Explain "This sober form of yours hides wrongs." [Recall & Understanding]
2. How does this exchange highlight the tension between Brutus and Cassius? [3]
What does Brutus's reaction reveal about his character and sense of honor?
How does Cassius express his frustration with Brutus in this moment? [Recall & Understanding]
3. How does this moment reflect the growing divide between Brutus and Cassius? [3]
What earlier actions in the play have led to this conflict? [Recall & Understanding]
4. How does this extract reflect the theme of loyalty and betrayal? [3]
What does this reveal about the challenges of maintaining unity among the conspirators? [Recall & Understanding]
5. Do you think Cassius's accusation of Brutus is justified? [4]
Support your answer with reference to their relationship and the events of the play. [Evaluate & Analysis]

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 following extract from Ama Atta Aidoo's story *The Girl Who Can't* given below and answer the questions that follow:

"What kind of legs?" And always at that point, I knew from her voice that my mother was weeping inside. Nana never heard such inside weeping. Not that it would have stopped Nana even if she had heard it."

1. Why does the speaker's mother ask, "What kind of legs?" [3]
How does the speaker sense that her mother is "weeping inside"? What does this reveal about the mother's emotional state? [Recall & Understanding]
2. Why does the speaker say that Nana "never heard such inside weeping"? [3]
What might be Nana's reaction even if she did perceive the mother's sadness? [Recall & Understanding]
3. How does the concept of "inside weeping" contribute to the overall tension between the mother and Nana? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
4. In what ways does this moment highlight the emotional impact of Nana's criticism on the mother? Why could the mother's hidden tears be significant for the speaker? [3]
[Recall & Understanding]

5. Do you believe Nana's insensitivity is intentional or simply a reflection of her character? Which details in the extract support your view? [Evaluate & Analysis] [4]

Question 5

Read the following extract from Stephen Leacock's story 'With the Photographer' given below and answer the questions that follow.

"Stop," I said with emotion but, I think, with dignity. "This face is my face. It is not yours. It is mine. I've lived with it for forty years and I know its faults. I know it's out of drawing. I know it wasn't made for me, but it's my face, the only one I have." I was conscious of a break in my voice but I went on—"such as it is, I've learned to love it. And this is my mouth, not yours. These ears are mine, and if your machine is too narrow—" Here I started to rise from the seat.

1. Where did the author go and why? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
2. What faults were found by the Photographer in the author's face? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
3. How did the author react to the photographer's words? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
4. In what state of mind did the author speak to the photographer? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
5. Why did the author leave his photograph with the photographer? [Evaluate & Analysis] [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.

Plainly with an intelligence I dealt.
It seemed too tiny to have room for feet,
Yet must have had a set of them complete
To express how much it didn't want to die.
It ran with terror and with cunning crept.
It faltered: I could see it hesitate:

1. What did the poet notice on his sheet of paper? What did he think of it initially? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
2. How did the poet conclude that the 'mite' was 'Intelligent' being? [Recall & Understanding] [3]

3. What was amusing about the movement of the mite? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
4. What does the poet appreciate about the mite? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
5. What is it that the poet satirizes later in the context? [Evaluate & Analysis][4]

Question 7

Read the extract from Maya Angelou's poem 'When Great Trees Fall' given below and answer the questions that follow:

“And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly.
Spaces fill with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.”

1. How does the poem describe the aftermath “when great souls die,” and what does this suggest about the passage of time? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
2. In what way does the notion of “peace blooms” contrast with the earlier sense of loss or shock? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
3. Why does the poet stress that this peace emerges “slowly and always irregularly,” and how might that reflect the process of healing? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
4. Discuss the meaning of “spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.” In what sense does this line evoke renewal? [Recall & Understanding] [3]
5. The poem highlights a gradual, uneven return to calm following a profound loss. Would you consider this “soothing electric vibration” a true resolution of grief or a sign of adapted resilience? Briefly explain your view. [Evaluate & Analysis][4]