

# HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

SESSION (2024-2025)

Subject – English Literature – 2

Std. X

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Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: 120 minutes

Answer to this paper must be written on the answer sheet 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.

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This 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 | |

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## Section A

[Attempt all questions from this section.]

### Question 1

[1x16]

Choose the correct answer to the questions from the given options. Do not copy the questions. Write the correct answer only.

1. **How does Brutus seem to see the murder of Caesar?**
  - (i) As a Solemn act of purification of Rome.
  - (ii) As an act of great Justice to him.
  - (iii) As an act of friendship.
  - (iv) All of the above
2. **Which of the following reasons did Brutus give for killing Caesar despite being his friend?**
  - (i) He did not like his ways.
  - (ii) He loves his freedom more than anything.
  - (iii) He loved Rome more than Caesar.
  - (iv) None of the above
3. **What does Antony intend to do after getting Caesar's will?**
  - (i) Change Caesar's will to fund the civil war
  - (ii) Read it Publicly
  - (iii) Cut down the amount of money bequeathed by Caesar.
  - (iv) Replace it with a fake will.
4. **Why does Brutus tell Cassius to discuss his grievances in private?**
  - (i) Their dispute should not reach their wives' ears.
  - (ii) The morale of their armies does not diminish.
  - (iii) Their dispute is no dispute at all.
  - (iv) None of these

5. **What reason does Brutus give for his anger?**  
(i) His misfortune (ii) His grief  
(iii) His failures (iv) None of these
6. **According to the narrator, who are the owners and occupants of the house or lands?**  
(i) Unknown forces (ii) Spirits of ancestors  
(iii) Aliens from other planets (iv) None
7. **Who among the following can cross the 'bridge of light'?**  
(i) Earthly beings (ii) The spirits  
(iii) The holy men (iv) None
8. **What was the attitude of the king and his nobles towards the 'royal beasts'?**  
(i) Apathy (ii) Empathy (iii) Disgust (iv) Fearful
9. **How do the survivors see the world after the departure of the great Souls from this world?**  
(i) The world becomes unrecognisable  
(ii) The world remains the same  
(iii) The world loses its beauty  
(iv) All of the above
10. **Which figure of speech is used in the line given below?**  
'Our minds, formed and informed by their radiance.....'  
(i) Alliteration (ii) Simile (iii) Metaphor (iv) Polyptoton
11. **What sort of face did the narrator want to have in his photograph?**  
(i) Exactly like his own (ii) Exactly as the photographer wanted it.  
(iii) His face minus the flaws in it (iv) None
12. **Why did the narrator ask, "Is it me"?**  
(i) The photo was beyond his expectation.  
(ii) The photo was no match to his real self.  
(iii) The photo was a true copy of his real self.  
(iv) None
13. **Martin Said, "It was not possible; what was it that Martin felt like a nightmare?"**  
(i) Being trapped in the elevator.  
(ii) Using the stairs to reach seventeenth floor.  
(iii) Seeing the lady for the second time in the elevator.  
(iv) None
14. **What was Martin's fear about the elevator in his building?**  
(i) It would stop suddenly  
(ii) He would be trapped inside it for hours.  
(iii) He would be bullied by others in the elevator.  
(iv) Both a and b
15. **According to the narrator's grandmother, what was the biggest problem?**  
(i) Her daughter's husband (ii) Her granddaughter's spindly legs  
(iii) Her daughter's silence (iv) None

- ...s Cinna's view initially about school?
- (i) A waste of time (ii) An idle pursuit  
 (iii) A platform to showcase her talent (iv) None

**Section - B**

**(Answer one or more questions from this section)  
 (Drama – Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)**

**Question 2**

**Read the extract carefully and answer the questions:-**

**[3+3+3+3+4]**

**Antony.**

*"O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?  
 Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,  
 Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well  
 I know not, gentlemen. What you intend."*

- (i) Where does the mighty Caesar lie? What is meant by "this little Measure"? Give one example each of Caesar's conquests and his glories.
- (ii) What does Antony mean to say by the following words:-  
 "That one of two bad ways you must conceit me. Either Coward or a Flatterer?"

**Read the extract and answer the question**

**Brutus**

*"Be patient till the last.  
 Romans, countrymen and lovers! hear me for my cause and be silent, that you may hear. Believe me for mine honour  
 and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe."*

- (iii) Where is Brutus? Whom does he request to be patient and on what occasion is this speech made? What was the purpose of the speech?
- (iv) "Hear me for my cause." What was his cause? Were his motives genuine? How can you justify your answer?

**Read the extract and answer the question:-**

**Cinna**

*"I dreamt tonight that I did feast with Caesar,  
 And things unluckily charge my fantasy.  
 I have no will to wander forth of doors,  
 Yet something leads me forth"*

- (v) Who was Cinna? Why did he wander forth? What did he dream that night?

**Question 3**

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

**[3+3+3+3+4]**

**Octavius**

*"You may do your will;  
 But he's a tried and valiant soldier."*

**Antony**

*"So is my horse, Octavius, and for that  
 I do appoint him store of provender."*

- (i) Who is the "tried and valiant soldier"? What has Antony just said about this person and about what he intends to do with him, which makes Octavius to defend him?
- (ii) When does this conversation take place? why does Octavius say, " You may do your will"?

**Read the extract and answer the following questions:**

**Brutus**

*"Thou hast described*

*A hot friend cooling; ever note, Lucilius,*

*When love begins to sicken and decay,*

*It useth an enforced ceremony."*

- (iii) Who has just described to whom? What is meant by "A hot friend cooling"?
- (iv) When love begins to decline, what happens? What is said in the extract about sincere friendship?

**Read the extract and answer the question:**

**Cassius**

*You know that you are Brutus that speaks this,*

*or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.*

**Brutus**

*The name of Cassius honours this corruption,*

*and chastisement doth therefore hide his head."*

- (v) What information does Brutus bring against Cassius later in the scene, which is the cause of his bad temper?

### Section - C (Short stories) prose

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

(Treasure chest - A collection of short stories and poems)

#### Question 4

[3+3+3+3+4]

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

*The photographer rolled a machine into the middle of the room and crawled into it from behind.*

*He was only in it a second, - Just time enough for one look at me.....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.*

*Then he crawled back into the machine again and drew a little black cloth over himself. This time he was very quiet in there. I knew that he was praying and I kept still.*

*When the photographer came out at last, he looked very grave and shook his head."*

- (i) What does the Photographer want to do with the machine? Who has asked him to do that and why?
- (ii) Why does the photographer remain inside the machine just for a second? What does it suggest about the photographer?
- (iii) When the photographer entered into the machine for the second time, why does he remain there for long time than before? Why does the narrator think that he was

- (iv) What do you think about the photographer from his activities in this extract? Give reasons to support your answer.
- (v) Why does the photographer look very grave? What does he say after this extract about the narrator? How does the narrator react?

### Question 5

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:- [3+3+3+3+4]

*"Nana would Just laugh." Ah, maybe with legs like hers, she might as well go to school 'Running with our classmates on our small sports field and winning first place each time never seemed to me to be anything about which to tell anyone at home. This time it was different. I don't know how the teachers decided to let me run for the Junior section of our school in the district games. But they did.*

*When I went home to tell my mother and Nana. They had not believed it at first. So Nana had taken it upon herself to go and ask into it properly."*

- (i) Why would Nana laugh? Why does she allow Adjoa to go to school?
- (ii) Why does Adjoa not tell anybody at home about her running on the sports field and winning all the competitions? Why does she say that this time it was different?
- (iii) How does Adjoa's mother and grandmother react to the news about her being selected as a runner for the district games? How does her grandmother check the truth about the news?
- (iv) How does Adjoa's mother react after her grandmother verified that Adjoa was indeed one of her school's runners?
- (v) Explain briefly what all Nana did on getting the news of Adjoa's selection for district sports meet and why?

### Section - D

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

#### Poetry

(Treasure chest - A collection of poems)

### Question 6

Read the following extract from H.W. Longfellow's Poem 'Haunted House' and answer the questions that follow:- [3+3+3+3+4]

*"Our little lives are kept in equipoise  
By opposite attractions and desires;  
The struggle of the instinct that enjoys.  
And the more noble instinct that aspires."*

- (i) Whose 'little lives' are referred to in the first line of the extract? In comparison to whom are they 'little' and why?
- (ii) How is balance maintained in their short lives?
- (iii) What are the two types of instincts referred to in this extract? Give examples of each type.
- (iv) What is the reason for the struggle between the two types of instincts? How is this struggle resolved?
- (v) Explain briefly the rhyme scheme used in this poem with examples. What role does it play in the poem?

Question 7

[3+3+3+3+4]

Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great trees fall' and answer the questions that follow:-

*"And when great souls die  
After a period of peace blooms,  
Slowly and always  
Irregularly, Spaces fill  
With a kind of soothing  
Electric vibration,  
Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, Whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed,  
We can be. Be and be better.  
for they existed."*

- (i) How does peace bloom after a period?
- (ii) Which 'spaces' is the speaker talking about? How are these spaces filled?
- (iii) How are our senses restored? What do they whisper to us?
- (iv) Which poetic device is used in.....they existed, they existed? What is suggested by this repetition?
- (v) Explain, how does this extract signify the role played by 'great souls' or immensely talented people to bring about massive cultural change.

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