

**PREBOARD – I, 2025-26**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE, PAPER – 2, GRADE X**

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**M.M: 80**

**Time : 2 HOURS**

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*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.*

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*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 [ ].*

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**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. What feeling does Cassius' words convey when he refers to Octavius as 'a peevish schoolboy' and to Antony as 'a masker and a reveller'?
- (a) fear      (b) disdain      (c) worry      (d) regret      [Analysis]
2. Which of the given options lists the sequence of events in the correct order?
- (i) During the battle at Philippi, Brutus's army inflicts an early defeat on Octavius' troops.  
(ii) Seeing some troops in the distance, Cassius sends Titinius on horseback to check if they are 'friend or foe'.  
(iii) Meanwhile, in another part of the battleground, Cassius learns that his camp has been surrounded by Antony's soldiers and is being attacked.  
(iv) Pindarus, seeing Titinius surrounded by horsemen, assumes that he has fallen into enemy hands and reports to Cassius that he (Titinius) has been taken captive.  
(v) Next, Cassius instructs his servant Pindarus to climb a hill nearby so that he can give him a detailed account of all that happens to Titinius.

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

[Understanding]

3. Cassius' reference to ravens, crows and kites taking the place of two mighty eagles that accompanied their armies from Sardis tells us that he is \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) filled with superstitious dread.
- (b) an expert bird watcher.
- (c) happier in the company of birds.
- (d) not a believer in superstition.

[Understanding]

4. In Act V, Scene IV, Lucilius pretends to be Brutus and is taken captive. His action reveals his \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) loyalty to Octavius.
- (b) desire to escape.
- (c) loyalty to Brutus.
- (d) youthful folly.

[Analysis]

5. To whom does Brutus refer when he says, "Are yet two romans living such as these? The last of all the Romans fare thee well!"?

- (a) Antony and Octavius
- (b) Cassius and Titinius
- (c) Pindarus and Lucius
- (d) Strato and Lucillius

[Understanding]

6. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements I and II.

Statement 1: Brutus was a believer in the stoic (tolerant) philosophy.

Statement 2: Brutus chose to take his life rather than face the humiliation of being taken captive.

- (a) Statement II illustrates Statement I.
- (b) Statement II contradicts Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is true, and Statement II is false.
- (d) Statement I is false, and Statement II is true.

[Analysis]

7. The ghosts/phantoms in H.W Longfellow's Haunted Houses are described as:

- (a) harmless
- (b) mischievous
- (c) malevolent
- (d) vengeful

[Analysis]

8. Which of the following is NOT the theme of the poem The Glove and the Lions?

- (a) Vanity
- (b) Valour
- (c) Pride
- (d) Cruelty

[Application]

9. The five stages of grief are described as shock, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Which of these stages is expressed in the following lines?

*"And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,"*

- (a) shock
- (b) anger
- (c) depression
- (d) acceptance

[Analysis & Evaluate]

10. What is the central idea in Frost's poem A Considerable Speck?

- (a) The poet critiques society's disregard for smaller aspects of life.
- (b) The idea is that every living being, no matter how small, has its own perspective and intelligence.
- (c) The struggle between man-made creations and the natural world.
- (d) The insignificance of individual thoughts in the grand scheme of the universe. [Evaluate]

11. *And in the sky the feathered fly turn  
turtle while they're winging.*

What does the phrase turn turtle mean?

- (a) Act like a turtle.
- (b) Jump like a turtle.
- (c) Turn upside down.
- (d) Become a turtle.

[Analysis]

12. *"I don't care for it. I like to get the hair clear back to the superficialities and make out a new brow line."*

These lines tell us that the photographer is \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) angry.
- (b) weak.
- (c) insensitive.
- (d) anxious.

[Analysis]

13. Martin, in the story The Elevator, is afraid of being trapped in the elevator. What is this fear called?

- (a) Hydrophobia
- (b) Arachnophobia
- (c) Claustrophobia
- (d) Aquaphobia

[Application]

14. Which of the following statements is not true of Adjoa in The Girl Who Can?

- (a) She has thin and long legs.
- (b) She is declared the best all-around junior athlete.
- (c) She is seven years old girl from Ghana.
- (d) She is proud of her abilities.

[Analysis]

15. Select the option which shows the correct relationship between statements I and II.  
Statement I: Mead compares walking through the empty, silent streets to walking through a graveyard.  
Statement II: Mead compares the empty street to the dry riverbeds of a windless desert.

- (a) Statements I and II are both true.
- (b) Statements I and II are both false.
- (c) Statement I is true, and Statement II is false.
- (d) Statement I is false, and Statement II is true.

[Understanding]

16. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order.  
(i) Every time the young boy looked up from writing, during the last lesson, he found M. Hamel sitting motionless in his chair.  
(ii) He had put on his fine Sunday clothes as he was delivering his last lesson.  
(iii) M. Hamel had also brought new copies written in a beautiful round hand to the class that day.  
(iv) The boy noticed that M Hamel, their teacher, was wearing his beautiful green coat, frilled shirt, and the little black silk cap.

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

[Analysis]

### SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

#### DRAMA

(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

#### Question 2

Read the extract from *Julius Caesar* [Act IV Scene III] and answer the questions that follow:

**Brutus:** *Speak no more of her. Give me a bowl of wine.  
In this I bury all unkindness, Cassius[Drinks]*

**Cassius:** *My heart is thirsty for that noble pledge.  
Fill, Lucius, till the wine o'erswell the cup,  
I cannot drink too much of Brutus' love.*

- (a) Who is referred to as 'her' in the first line of the extract? What had she done? [3]  
Why did she take that step? [Recall & Understanding]
- (b) How was Brutus related to the above lady? Why did he wish not to discuss the matter related to her? What does this tell us about his nature? [3]  
[Recall, Understanding & Analysis]
- (c) Who comes to meet Brutus and Cassius immediately after the quoted lines? [3]  
What news do they bring? [Recall]

(d) Explain the term 'Triumvirate' in this context. Name the members of the Second Triumvirate. [Recall] [3]

(e) Brutus and Cassius had different ideas about how best to defeat the enemy. What were their strategies? Whose strategy was adopted? [4] [Understanding]

### Question 3

Read the following extract from *Julius Caesar* [Act V Scene III] and answer the questions that follow:

**Messala:** *Is not that he?*

**Titinius:** *No, this was he, Messala,  
But Cassius is no more.—O setting Sun,  
As in thy red rays thou dost sink to night,  
So in his red blood Cassius' day is set,  
The sun of Rome is set! Our day is gone;  
Clouds, dews, and dangers come; our deeds are done!  
Mistrust of my success hath done this deed.*

(a) Where does this scene take place? What is the nature of the relationship that Titinius and Cassius shared? [Recall & Analysis] [3]

(b) Give two words that would best describe Titinius' mood in the given extract. Justify your choice of words. [3] [Evaluate]

(c) Earlier in Act V, Cassius shares some facts about himself with Messala – what are these facts? [Recall] [3]

(d) How did Cassius die? What were his dying words? [Recall] [3]

(e) What does the phrase, 'this deed' in the last line of the extract refer to? Explain in your own words what Titinius means by, 'Mistrust of my success hath done this deed'. [4] [Understanding]

### 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 the lesson *The Elevator* and answer the questions that follow:

*"Martin's father worked at home. He wanted to know why Martin was out of breath. "Why didn't you take the elevator?" he asked, frowning at Martin."*

(a) How old was Martin? On which floor did he live? What word would you use to describe Martin? [Recall & Analysis] [3]

- (b) Why was Martin scared of using the elevator? [Recall] [3]
- (c) Martin disliked using the staircase. Why? [Recall] [3]
- (d) Martin met a strange person in the elevator one day. What did she do that scared Martin? What happened to Martin when he ran away after seeing her? [Recall] [3]
- (e) Comment on the ending of the story, *The Elevator*. Identify any two elements of horror in the story. [Analysis] [4]

### Question 5

Read the extract given below from *The Last Lesson* by Alphonse Daudet and answer the questions that follow:

*"I think, too, that I had never listened so carefully, and that he had never explained everything with so much patience."*

- (a) Who are 'I' and 'he' in the above extract? [3]  
What kind of a teacher was 'he'? [Recall & Evaluate]
- (b) Why was the lesson called 'The Last Lesson'? [Recall] [3]
- (c) What did 'I' notice that was unusual about the school that day? [Recall] [3]
- (d) What is the mood in the classroom among the adults and the children in the story *The Last Lesson*? Give an alternative title to the story. [Analysis, Evaluate & Create] [3]
- (e) What does this statement reveal about 'I'? What kind of a pupil was the young boy earlier? What was the most important lesson he had learnt? [Analysis & Evaluate][3]

## 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 given below from the poem *When Great Trees Fall* and answer the questions that follow:

*When great trees fall  
in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses  
eroded by fear.*

- (a) What effect does the falling of 'great trees' have on distant hills and animals in the jungle? [Recall] [3]

(b) Explain in your own words the line, 'small things ... eroded by fear'. [3]  
[Understanding]

(c) How is one's memory affected by the death of a great soul? [Recall] [3]

(d) What analogy does Angelou use to describe the death of a great soul? [3]  
Give two reasons to show that this analogy is appropriate. [Analysis & Evaluate]

(e) Trace the stages of grief and coming to terms with the loss of a loved one that Maya Angelou describes in her poem *When Great Trees Fall*. [Analysis] [3]

### Question 7

Read the extract from the poem *The Power of Music* and answer the questions that follow.

*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 Bhisma Lochan grants the world the golden gift of silence.*

(a) In which season would one hear Bhisma Lochan Sharma singing? [3]  
Where would one hear his voice? [Recall]

(b) Give one reason to conclude that Bhisma was passionate about singing. [3]  
How did people react when they heard his song? [Analysis]

(c) How did animals react when they heard Bhisma Lochan Sharma? [3]  
[Understanding]

(d) After reading the poem, give any three characteristic features that you can associate with Bhisma Lochan Sharma. [Analysis] [3]

(e) How did the world get the golden gift of silence? [4]  
Mention two ways in which music helps a person. [Understanding & Application]