

Answer 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 first 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 question in Section A must be answered.

You must attempt **one** question from each of the Section B, C and D and one other question from any section of your choice.

The intended marks for questions or part of questions are given in the bracket [].

Section-A

(Attempt **all** questions from the Section.)

Question I

[16]

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(Do not copy the questions, write the correct answers only.)

Select the correct option for each of the following questions:

- i) According to the idealistic Brutus, Caesar's murder will be
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) a spiritual act | (b) a purifying act |
| (c) a brutal act | (d) an act of cruelty |
- ii) Artemidorus says that if Caesar is unable to read this warning letter, then
- | |
|--|
| (a) the Fates or destiny is in the favour of the conspirators against Caesar |
| (b) the Fates or destiny is in favour of Caesar and he might be saved |
| (c) at least he had tried his best to warn Caesar |
| (d) Caesar is overconfident. |
- iii) What kind of tree was planted by the poet's brother?
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) fir tree | (b) laburnum |
| (c) rose | (d) oak |
- iv) Choose the option that lists the sequence of what Portia tells herself in the correct order.
1. How hard it is for a woman to keep counsel
 2. O constancy, be strong upon my side
 3. I have a man's mind but a woman's might
 4. Set a huge mountain 'tween my heart and tongue.
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 1,2,4,3 | (b) 3,4,2,1 |
| (c) 2,4,3,1 | (d) 4,2,1,3 |
- v) Which of these statements is NOT true? 'I Remember I Remember'
- | |
|--|
| (a) The poet feels miserable as a grown-up man. |
| (b) The poet laments the loss of childhood innocence. |
| (c) The poet wishes that he had died in his childhood. |
| (d) The poet wishes to die now. |
- vi) With chiding and scolding a boy of fourteen becomes ____
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) extremely shameless | (b) a problem for his parents |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|

- (c) like a stray dog that has lost its master
(d) self-willed and stubborn
- vii) Nathu banged the pan against the dustbin several times to
(a) emphasize his point (b) register his protest
(c) none of the above (d) warn the bank employees
- viii) _____ takes the responsibility of making sure that Caesar goes to the Capitol.
(a) Cassius (b) Casca
(c) Trebonius (d) Decius
- ix) Select the correct option that displays the characteristics of the personified train (Night Mail) correctly.
(a) kind (b) aggressive
(c) methodical (d) steady
- x) Calpurnia had thrice cried out in her sleep that Caesar had
(a) been murdered. (b) murdered her.
(c) murdered the priest. (d) killed Casca.
- xi) Which regions does the train pass through?
(a) The seabeach (b) hills and plains
(c) mountains (d) war zones
- xii) What do the opening lines the poem "I Remember I Remember" create?
(a) happy (b) sad
(c) nostalgic (d) indifferent
- xiii) "What! You little villain! Would you hit your own mother"?
Which of the following words best describes the tone of the speaker?
(a) sarcastic (b) frustrated
(c) angry (d) pleasing
- xiv) The destination of the train is towards _____.
(a) The South (b) The North
(c) The West (d) The East
- xv) While sweeping the steps of the bank Nathu grumbled because
(a) he was abused by the manager.
(b) he was made to work very hard.
(c) he had not been given his salary.
(d) all of the above.
- xvi) According to Trevor, an artist's heart is in his-
(a) mind (b) head
(c) soul (d) feelings

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 follows:

LUCIUS - Madam, what should I do?
Run to the Capitol, and nothing else?
And so return to you, and nothing else
Portia -Yes bring me word, boy, if thy lord look well.
For he went sickly forth: and take good note
What Caesar doth, what suitors press to him.
Hark, boy! what noise is that?
LUCIUS - I hear none, madam.
PORTIA - Prithee, listen well;
I hear a bustling rumour, like a fray,
And the wind brings it from the Capitol.

1. Where are Portia and Lucius? Who is Lucius? Why is he confused? [3]
2. Why is Portia so tensed? [3]
3. Just before the extract, what had she uttered about 'a man's mind' and 'a woman's body'? [3]
4. Why is Portia worried about Brutus? How has Brutus added to her anxiety? [3]
5. What other instructions were given to Lucius? [4]

Question 3

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

DECIUS-Shall no man else be touch'd but only Caesar?
CASSIUS Decius, well urg'd: I think it is not meet
Mark Antony, so well belov'd of Caesar, should outlive Caesar:
We shall find of him
A shrewd contriver;

1. Why does Cassius feel that Decius is right? [3]
2. Why does Brutus contradict him? [3]
3. What are the reasons given by Brutus not to kill Mark Antony? [3]
4. How does Brutus try to justify that their act will appear 'too bloody'? [3]
5. What is Brutus' assessment regarding Mark Antony? How sound is his judgement? Give instances. [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 following extract from *Ruskin Bond* short story, 'The Boy Who Broke the Bank' and answer the questions that follow:

'So there you are!' cried Mrs Bhushan, 'I've been looking for you for almost an hour. Where did you disappear?'

'Nowhere,' replied Mr Bhushan. 'Had you remained stationary in one shop, I might have found you. But you go from one shop to another, like a bee in a flower garden.'

'Don't start grumbling. The heat is trying enough. I don't know what's happening to Pipalnagar. Even the bank's about to go bankrupt.'

'What's that?' said Kamal Kishore, sitting up suddenly. 'Which bank?'

'Why the Pipalnagar bank of course. I hear they have stopped paying employees. Don't tell me you have an account there. Mr. Kishore?'

- (i) Where did Mrs. Bhushan find her husband finally? What was he doing? [3]
(ii) Why had Mr. Bhushan not been able to find his wife in the market? [3]
(iii) What did Mrs. Bhushan tell her husband? When did she get this information? [3]
(iv) How did Kamal Kishore react on the information given by Mrs. Bhushan? Why? [3]
(v) Did Kamal Kishore have an account in the Pipalnagar bank? To whom did he immediately pass on this information? [4]

Question-5

Read the following extract from *Rabindranath Tagore* short story "The Home Coming" and answer the questions that follow:

Phatik wiped his face, and sat down on the edge of a sunken barge on the river bank, and began to chew a piece of grass. A boat came up to the landing, and a middle-aged man, with grey hair and dark moustache, stepped on shore. He saw the boy sitting there doing nothing, and asked him where the Chakravortis lived. Phatik went on chewing the grass, and said: "Over there," but it was quite impossible to tell where he pointed. The stranger asked him again. He swung his legs to and fro on the side of the barge, and said; "Go and find out," and continued to chew the grass as before.

- (i) What had happened a little earlier for which Phatik had to wipe his face? [3]
(ii) Who was this middle-aged man who stepped on the shore? [3]
(iii) What did the 'man' ask the boy? What reply did the boy give? What was wrong with the answer? [3]
(iv) What can you say about Phatik's rude behaviour with the stranger? [3]
(v) Who came soon after this incident? Where did he take Phatik? How? [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 following extract from *W.H. Auden*, 'The Night Mail' and answer the questions that follow:

Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
Stare from the bushes at her blank-faced coaches.
Sheep-dogs cannot turn her course:
They slumber on with paws across.

In the farm she passes no one wakes,
But a jug in the bedroom gently shakes.

- (i) Which figure of speech is used in Line 1? [3]
- (ii) Comment on the use of phrase 'blank-faces' for the train coaches. [3]
- (iii) What do sheep-dogs do? What is their purpose? [3]
- (iv) How do sleeping people react as the train passes? Why? [3]
- (v) What kinds of letters are carried by the train? [4]

Question-7

Read the following extract from *Vikram Seth, 'A Doctor's Journal Entry'* and answer the questions that follow:

My Mind

Ran at high speed, my body crept behind.
I saw the shadowy forms of people, some
Were ghosts, some scarecrows, all were wordless dumb –
Arms stretched straight out, shoulder to dangling hand;
It took some time for me to understand
The friction on their burns caused so much pain.

- (i) Why was the doctor's wife reluctant to leave him? [3]
- (ii) 'My mind/Ran at high speed, my body crept behind'. What does this reveal about the speaker's condition? [3]
- (iii) What did people look like? What had happened to them? [3]
- (iv) Why were some people moving with outstretched hands? [3]
- (v) What common thing among the victims of the holocaust was noticed by the doctor on his way to the hospital? [4]