



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

HALF YEARLY EXAM – OCTOBER 2023

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time: 2 Hrs.

CLASS IX

M.M.: 80

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

Q1. Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options. [16]

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

(i) Brutus does not wish to be a part of the Lupercal festivities because he is _____.

- a) not a lover of sports b) preoccupied c) sick d) against such festivities

(ii) The crown was offered to Caesar by _____.

- (a) the senate b) the crowd. c) Mark Antony d) Brutus

(iii) Casca feared that the Senate intended

- a) to crown Caesar b) to give Caesar more powers
- c) to remove Caesar d) to call Pompey back

(iv) Where does Cassius want other conspirators to meet?

- a) in the Senate hall b) in the market place
- c) at Brutus' house d) in Pompey's Porch

(v) The bird of night hooted and shrieked in the

- a) Senate Hall b) upon Caesar's house
- c) in the market place d) in the Capitol

(vi) Which of the following statements is NOT true about Skimbleshanks?

- a) The cat watches all the passengers and their actions and thoughts.
- b) The cat offers morning tea to the passengers.
- c) No pranks can be played with Skimbleshanks.
- d) Skimbleshanks is in charge of the Sleeping Car Express.

(vii) What does the cat do when the train reaches Carlisle station?

- a) He takes a nap. b) He plays with the other animals on the train.
- c) He greets the stationmaster. d) He speaks to the police.

(viii) The whispering started at _____ and Skimbleshanks appeared at _____.

- a) 11:42 pm, 11:39 pm b) 11:39 pm, 11:43 pm
- c) 11:38 pm, 11:42 pm d) 11:39pm, 11:42pm.

(ix) What literary device is used in the line ' The fir tree dark and high;'

- a) Personification b) Imagery c) Metaphor d) Simile

(x) What is laburnum?

- a) A tree with red flowers. b) A tree with clusters of white flowers.
- c) A tree with clusters of yellow flowers. d) A shrub with pink flowers.

(xi) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order.

1. The master hit Oliver with his spoon.
2. Oliver was taken into the large hall where the boys had their soup.
3. Oliver asked for more soup.
4. Oliver was shut in a dark room.

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

- (xii) How did the workhouse boys clean their soup bowls?
- They washed them with soap and water.
 - They threw them away and got new ones.
 - They did not clean them at all.
 - They cleaned them with their spoons until they shone.
- (xiii) Who named Oliver Twist ?
- The doctor who delivered him.
 - The old woman who took care of him.
 - Mr. Bumble
 - The master
- (xiv) How does Trevor describe the kind of people he thinks a painter should know?
- People who are boring but kind.
 - People who are ugly and mean.
 - People who are arrogant and wealthy.
 - People who are beautiful and an artistic pleasure to look at.
- (xv) Who said the following line in the story?
- 'What an amazing model!'*
- Alan Trevor
 - Laura Merton
 - Hughie Erskine
 - Monsieur Gustave Naudin
- (xvi) What was inside the envelope that Monsieur Gustave Naudin gave Hughie?"
- a congratulatory note
 - a cheque of £10,000
 - £10,000 in cash
 - a sovereign

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 - Fear him not, Caesar; he's not dangerous;

He is a noble Roman and well given.

Caesar - Would he were fatter! But I fear him not:

Yet if my name were liable to fear,

I do not know the man I should avoid

So soon as that spare Cassius.

- Where were Caesar and his followers coming from right before this extract? What kind of mood was he in and why? [3]
- What kind of men Caesar wants to be surrounded with? [3]
- Later in the scene, what information did Casca give about Flavius and Marullus? According to Casca, how many times was the crown offered to Caesar and who offered it ? [3]
- Which physical disability of Caesar is shown after this extract? What other illness does Caesar suffer from? [3]
- What reasons does Caesar give for fearing Cassius right after the above lines? [4]

Question 3

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

Cinna - I am glad on't. What a fearful night is this!

There's two or three of us have seen strange sights,

Cassius - Am I not stay'd for? tell me.

Cinna- Yes, you are.

O Cassius, if you could

But win the noble Brutus to our party-

- (i) Where is the above scene set? Describe the 'fearful night.' [3]
- (ii) What does Cassius give Cinna after the extract? What task does Cassius assign to him? [3]
- (iii) Why is Casca keen on Brutus joining the conspiracy? Where have the conspirators agreed to meet at the end of the scene? [3]
- (iv) What two instances showing Caesars 'weakness' did Cassius highlight to Brutus at the beginning of the scene? [3]
- (v) In the beginning of the scene, what unnatural occurrences did Casca witness during the stormy night which he considers to be portentous things? [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 extract from Charles Dickens' short story 'Oliver Asks For More', and answer the questions that follow:

They were fed in a big hall. A large pot stood at one end of the room, and the soup was served by the master. Each boy had one small bowl of soup and no more.

- (i) What is the setting of the story? Where was Oliver born? Who all were present in the room where he was born? [3]
- (ii) Who was Mr Bumble? What did he do for Oliver? At the end of the story, what notice was put up by him on the gate? [3]
- (iii) Why did Oliver Twist ask for more soup? What was the master's reaction when he did so? Who did he call for help? [3]
- (iv) What was the normal food given to the boys? What was the extra food given to them on Sundays? State the condition of children in England as shown in the story? [3]
- (v) How was Oliver treated when he asked for more soup? Do you think such treatment is justified? [4]

Question 5

Read the extract from Oscar Wilde's short story 'The Model Millionaire' and answer the questions that follow:

To make matters worse, he was in love. The girl he loved was Laura Merton, the daughter of a retired Colonel who had lost his temper and his digestion in India, and had never found either of them again. Laura adored him, and he was ready to kiss her shoe-strings.

- (i) Who is referred to as 'he' in the above extract? Describe his appearance. [3]
- (ii) What had his father bequeathed him? What was his only means of income? What was the last profession that he had tried before becoming 'nothing'? [3]
- (iii) Why was the Colonel against the engagement even though he was fond of 'him'? What was his demand? [3]
- (iv) In the story, why did Hughie pity the beggar man at the studio? What did he do to help him? [3]
- (v) Do you think the title of the story 'The Model Millionaire!' is apt? [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 the poem 'Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat' by T.S. Eliot and answer the questions that follow:

*He will watch you without winking and he sees
What you are thinking
And it's certain that he doesn't approve
Of hilarity and riot, so the folk are very quiet
When Skimble is about and on the move.
You can play no pranks with skimbleshanks !
He's a Cat that cannot be ignored;
So nothing goes wrong on the Northern Mail
When Skimbleshanks is aboard.*

- i) What is the cause of suspense at the beginning of the poem? When does Skimble come? Where has he been busy? [3]
- ii) Who are the individuals searching for Skimble and why is it important to find him? [3]
- iii) Why does nothing go wrong on the Northern Mail? Which literary device has been used for Skimbleshanks in the poem? [3]
- iv) What facilities are available in the 'Little den'? [3]
- v) Name the first and last stations of the Midnight Mail? How does Skimble bid goodbye to the passengers? How can we say that Skimble is a perfectionist? [4]

Question 7

Read the extract from the poem 'I Remember, I Remember' by Thomas Hood and answer the questions that follow:

*I remember I remember
Where I was used to swing,
And thought the air must rush as fresh
To swallows on the wing;
My spirit flew in feathers then,
That is so heavy now,
And summer pools could hardly cool
The fever on my brow!*

- (i) How does the poet describe his spirit in the past? How does he feel now? Why? [3]
- (ii) What did the poet's brother plant and when? What does this line 'The tree is living yet' signify? [3]
- (iii) 'And summer pools could hardly cool The fever on my brow!' Explain what the poet means by these lines. [3]
- (iv) In the last stanza of the poem, what does the poet think about the fir trees as a child? What is the significance of the words 'I Remember, I Remember'? [3]
- (v) How does the poem reflect on the theme 'Childhood Vs Adulthood'? [4]

*****ALL THE BEST*****