



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION 2025-26

ENGLISH LITERATURE

CLASS – X

TIME: 2 Hours

MM: 80

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 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]

- i) What does the phrase “Et tu, Brute?” symbolize in the play?
 - a) The triumph of republican values over dictatorship.
 - b) Conspirator’s recognition of Brutus as the leader of Rome.
 - c) The deep personal betrayal by a trusted friend.
 - d) The inevitability of fate and destiny.
- ii) When Caesar dismisses the soothsayer with the words, “The ides of March are come”, he _____.
 - a) assumes the prophecy has already failed
 - b) wishes to mock the conspirators indirectly
 - c) deliberately ignores the soothsayer’s persistence
 - d) believes divine blessings and warnings hold no weight against his power
- iii) In the aftermath of Caesar’s assassination, why does Brutus urge the conspirators to smear their hands in his blood?
 - a) To cleanse them of individual guilt and portraying the deed as holy.
 - b) To display unity and proclaim the deed as a noble sacrifice for Rome.
 - c) To instill fear in the senators who remained loyal to Caesar.
 - d) To conform to an ancient solemn Roman religious act.
- iv) When Brutus says, ‘Look, how he makes to Caesar: mark him’, he refers to _____.
 - a) Lepidus
 - b) Popilius
 - c) Lucilius
 - d) Antony
- v) Who were the members of the Second Triumvirate, formed to rule over Rome after Caesar’s assassination?
 - a) Julius Caesar, Crassus, Pompey
 - b) Marcus Brutus, Caius Cassius, Casca
 - c) Mark Antony, Octavius Caesar, Lepidus
 - d) Octavius Caesar, Julius Caesar, Mark Antony
- vi) Which of the following words best describe Antony’s mood when he says: ‘O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason!’?
 - a) Anxious
 - b) Frustrated
 - c) Regretful
 - d) Fearful
- vii) In the poem, ‘Haunted Houses’, the poet H. W. Longfellow has compared the ethereal image of moonlight floating across the ocean waves with _____.
 - a) the eternal cycle of life and death in this world.
 - b) a bridge of light that descends from the world of spirits.
 - c) the calm beauty of night’s silence.
 - d) the endless rise and fall of human hopes.
- viii) In the last stanza of the poem *The Glove and the Lion*, what lesson does the poet convey through the lady’s act of throwing down her glove and the knight’s reaction?
 - a) True love is proved by performing dangerous and foolish acts.
 - b) Courage must always be shown to win admiration.



- c) * Love built on vanity and pride is not worthy of respect.
d) The knight was weak and afraid of the lion.
- ix) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (1) and (2) from the poem 'The Glove and the Lions':
Statement 1: The lady threw her glove into the arena to test the knight's bravery.
Statement 2: The knight happily accepted her gesture as a sign of true love.
a) (1) is false, but (2) is true.
b) Both (1) and (2) are false.
c) (1) is true, but (2) is false.
d) Both (1) and (2) are true.
- x) Which of the given options contains the figure of speech that appears in the title of the poem, 'When Great Trees Fall'?
a) The wind whispered through the trees.
b) Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both.
c) My love is like a red, red rose that's newly sprung in June.
d) The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.
- xi) In her poem 'When Great Trees Fall', Maya Angelou has used the metaphor of a tree falling to refer to
a) the effect of felling trees on the environment.
b) how the death of trees affect humanity.
c) the time spent on grieving for the dead.
d) the impact of the death of a loved one on those left behind.
- xii) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from William Sleator's short story, 'The Elevator':
1. Martin watched the door slide open, revealing a green coat, a piggish face and blue eyes which were already staring at him as if she knew he would be there.
2. Martin looked away, but the woman didn't turn around. Was she still looking at him?
3. "Hello, Martin," she said, and laughed, and pushed the Stop button.
4. Martin started running down the stairs. The stairs were dark and he fell.
a) 1,2,3,4
b) 4,1,3,2
c) 4,2,3,1
d) 2,1,4,3
- xiii) In the short story, 'The Girl Who Can', which of the following does Adjoa's grandmother **NOT** do when she came to know that Adjoa had been selected to represent her school at the District Sports Meet?
a) She washed her school uniform herself.
b) She went to Mr. Mensah's house and borrowed his charcoal pressing iron and ironed her uniform.
c) She stared at Adjoa's legs with a strange look on her face.
d) She walked along with Adjoa every afternoon to attend the district sports meet.
- xiv) In the short story, 'With the Photographer', the narrator kept old editions of the magazines in the waiting room because he
a) had set perceptions and standards of beauty in his mind.
b) loved beautiful women and children.
c) was in a habit of making his customers wait.
d) learned tricks and techniques of photography from them.
- xv) "When I ran and won, everyone was surprised, especially Nana. Suddenly, my legs were no longer useless." Which theme is best reflected in this moment?
a) Fate versus free will.
b) Women breaking stereotypes.
c) Importance of accepting criticism.
d) Society values children who obey their elders.
- xvi) Why does the narrator call the final photograph a "worthless bauble"?
a) He had removed all authentic features.
b) The photograph looked like a decorative object with no personal meaning or emotional value.
c) It comes out perfectly natural.
d) His friends would not appreciate the photograph and refuse to keep it as 'memento mori'.

SECTION – B

(Answer *one or more* questions from this Section)
(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

Question 2. Read the extract from 'Julius Caesar' Act 3, Scene 1, given below and answer the questions that follow:



O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low?
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils
Shrunk to this little measure?

- i) Where is Antony?
Why does he call Caesar "mighty" even after his death?
What does this reveal about Antony's character? [3]
- ii) What clever request does Antony make soon after this speech? How do Cassius and Brutus respond to Antony's request? What arguments did each of them give for their response? [3]
- iii) List the three conditions that Brutus had laid down for Antony to ensure that he would not harm their cause. [3]
- iv) Antony says, 'O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low?' What is the irony in this sentence? What does it foreshadow? What political change will take place in Rome after Caesar's death? [3]
- v) Whom do you sympathise with in the play, the conspirators or Julius Caesar? Do you think Caesar's death is justified? Substantiate your answer with valid reasons. [4]

Question 3. Read the extract from 'Julius Caesar' Act 3, Scene 3, given below and answer the questions that follow:
Cinna:

I dreamt tonight that I did feast with Caesar
and things unlucky charge my fantasy.
I have no will to wander forth of doors
yet something leads me forth.

- i) Who is Cinna? Where is he going and in what capacity? What does he dream about that night? [3]
- ii) What does his dream suggest about his subconscious fears or premonitions? Cinna says, 'I have no will to wander forth of doors, yet something leads me forth'. What do these words imply? [3]
- iii) What does the mob presume about Cinna? What justification does the Roman mob give conclusively for killing him? What does this scene reveal about mob psychology? [3]
- iv) Who, according to you, has instigated the mob to such a frenzy and how? What is the dramatic importance of Act 3 Scene 3? [3]
- v) Do you think that Cinna's fate mirrored Caesar's? Justify your answer.
Cinna's lynching and possible killing demonstrate that violence, once unleashed, cannot be controlled or limited. Comment. [4]

SECTION – C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest - A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4. Read the following extract from William Sleater's short story, '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. You're not only skinny and weak and bad at sports, his face seemed to say, but you are also a coward. After that, Martin always took the elevator.

One morning the elevator stopped, and a fat lady got on. As she waddled into the elevator, Martin was sure he felt it sink under her weight. She was so big that her coat brushed against him, and he had to squeeze himself into a corner.

- i) Why was Martin breathless? What was Martin's father's opinion of him? What does this reveal to us about his father's character? [3]
- ii) Describe the elevator. What was Martin's biggest fear regarding the elevator? Why did he decide to take the elevator despite his fear? [3]
- iii) On which floor did Martin first meet the fat lady? What was Martin's state of mind when he first confronted the lady? [3]
- iv) In the end, Martin's father left him in the elevator alone. Describe what happened next. [3]
- v) Earlier, why did Martin decide to tell his father about the lady on the first day he met her? What was his father's reaction?
Do you think that Martin's wrong and insensitive parenting moulded him into a boy with low self-esteem? [4]

Question 5. Read the following extract from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story, 'The Girl Who Can' and answer the questions that follow:

As far as I could see, there was only one problem. And it had nothing to do with what I knew Nana considered as 'problem', or what Maami thinks of as 'the problem'.

- i) According to Adoja, what was her only problem at the age of seven? Why was it a problem? [3]



- ii) What was the issue that her two favourite people always fought over? Mention any two comments made by Nana over the issue. [3]
- iii) Why did Adjoa's mother want her to go to school? What was Nana's view regarding her schooling? Why did she finally agree to send her to school? [3]
- iv) What was the turning point in Adjoa's life in school? Give two examples that depict the grandmother's change of attitude towards her since that revelation. [3]
- v) At the end of the story, Adjoa wins the cup for the best all-round junior athlete. Give two separate words to describe the emotions of the mother and the grandmother at her achievement. [3]
As a child living in the 21st century, do you relate with the girl in the story, 'The Girl Who Can'? Give one valid reason. [4]

SECTION – D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6. Read the following extract from Leigh Hunt's poem, 'The Glove and the Lions' and answer the questions that follow:

She dropped her glove, to prove his love, then looked at him and smiled;

He bowed, and in a moment leaped among the lions wild:

- i) Whom do 'he' and 'she' refer to? Where are they? Who else were present there? [3]
- ii) Describe the contest between the royal beasts in the pit as mentioned in the second stanza of the poem. [3]
- iii) What did 'she' do and what was her ulterior motive behind it? What does her thought process reveal about her? [3]
- iv) On receiving the non-verbal instructions, what did 'he' do in response to 'her' action? What realization dawned upon him, as he regained his place? How did he react? [3]
- v) Justify the title of the poem. [4]

Question 7. Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall' and answer the questions that follow:

Great souls die and

our reality, bound to

them, takes leave of us.

We are not so much maddened

as reduced to the unutterable ignorance

of dark, cold

caves.

- i) Who are referred to as "great souls"? What happens when great souls die? How is our reality connected to great souls? [3]
- ii) What happens to our breath, our eyes and our memory after someone close to us dies? [3]
- iii) What does the poet mean by "unutterable ignorance"? What does it signify? [3]
- iv) Explain the connotations associated with the phrase 'dark, cold caves'. [3]
- v) According to the poet how and when does peace bloom? Do you think the poem ends on a comforting and reassuring note. Elucidate. [4]