

I PRE BOARD EXAMINATION- 2025- 26
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (PAPER-2)

(Maximum Marks: 80)

(Two hours)

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 allotted for writing the answers.

This paper has four Sections. Section A is compulsory.

All questions in section A must be answered.

You must attempt at least 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

[16]

Choose the correct answer to the questions from the given option.

I. Who is referred to by Clitus as 'noble vessel full of grief?

- a. Brutus
- b. Cassius
- c. Antony
- d. Lepidus

II. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements 1 and 2.

Statement -1 Lucilius pretends to be Brutus.

Statement- 2 Lucilius' act of loyalty aims to protect Brutus and give him a chance to escape.

This paper consists of 8 printed pages.

- a. Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.
- b. Statement 2 is true and statement 1 is false.
- c. Statement 2 is the cause for statement 1.
- d. Both the statements are false.

III What reason does Brutus give to Romans for killing Caesar?

- a. Caesar was arrogant.
- b. Caesar was ambitious.
- c. Caesar was a traitor.
- d. Caesar was evil.

IV What does Cassius fear Brutus will do as a result of their argument?

- a. Betray him
- b. Abandon the Army
- c. Lead them to defeat
- d. Join forces with Octavius.

V Who is referred to as Pindarus' master?

- a. Brutus
- b. Cassius
- c. Antony
- d. Octavius

VI Who has been referred to by Mark Antony as Caesar's angle?

- a. Calpurnia
- b. Octavius
- c. Brutus
- d. None of these

VII What does the phrase 'panic rout' imply in 'The Power of Music'?

- a. Solemn parade
- b. Celebration
- c. Unhappy occasion
- d. Chaotic situation

VIII Which of the following statements is not true?

- a. The poet spares the mite as he feels it has a mind of its own.
- b. The poet spares the mite out of pity.
- c. The poet once thinks of killing the mite.
- d. The poet has no indiscriminate love for all living beings.

IX The line 'They existed. 'They existed' is an example of _____

- anaphora
- epiphora
- epizeuxis
- antithesis

X What was the attitude of the king towards the 'royal beasts'?

- Apathy
- Disgust
- Fearful
- Empathy

XI Which of the following is not associated with the spirits in the poem 'Haunted Houses'?

- They glide.
- They throng.
- They waft.
- They wail.

XII Arrange the following events from 'The Last Lesson' in correct order.

1. What a thunder-clap these words were to me.
2. There was a large crowd in front of the bulletin board.
3. We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.
4. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German.

- 2, 4, 1, 3
- 2, 4, 3, 1
- 1, 3, 2, 4
- 1, 3, 4, 2

XIII Identify the type of imagery used in the phrase 'smelling its rusty smell'?

- Tactile imagery
- Olfactory imagery
- Visual imagery
- Auditory imagery

XIV The gleaming cup in 'The Girl Who Can' Symbolises.....

- achievement
- wealth
- pride
- complex

XV Based on the story 'The Elevator', how would you analyse the relationship between Martin and his father?

- Loving
- Caring
- Friendly
- Disjointed

XVI Of all features, which one remained unchanged in the photograph?

- Eye
- Lips
- Ears
- Hair

SECTION- B (DRAMA)

(Julius Caesar : William Shakespeare)

(Answer one or more questions from this section.)

[16]

Question 2

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

Strato : Give me your hand first. Fare you well my lord.

Brutus : Farewell, good Strato.

Caesar, now be still.

I killed not thee with half so good a will.

- i. What is the significance of Brutus' final words, 'Caesar, now be still. I killed not thee with half so good a will'? [3]
- ii. How does Brutus' death scene represent the culmination of his character arc throughout the play? [3]
- iii. What role does Strato play in Brutus' death? How does this reflect the nature of their relationship? [3]
- iv. Why does Brutus choose to end his life rather than be captured by his enemies? [3]
- v. What is the symbolic significance of Brutus' death in relation to the themes of honour and sacrifice in the play? [4]

Question 3

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

Antony : You all do know this mantle.

I remember

The first time ever Caesar put it on;

'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent,

That day he overcame the Nervii.

- i. Who were the Nervii? Why does Antony mention the names of Cassius, Casca and Brutus as he shows the mob the mantle? [3]

- ii. State three arguments put forward by Antony earlier to prove that Caesar was not ambitious. [3]
- iii. Why does Antony refer to Brutus as well- beloved? Why was the stabbing of Caesar by Brutus referred to as the 'most unkindest cut of all'? [3]
- iv. Mention three ways Brutus' speech differs from Antony's. [3]
- v. What characteristic of the mob is highlighted in this scene? [4]

State any two characteristic traits of Mark Antony revealed in this scene.

SECTION-C

Treasure Chest: (Short Stories)

(Answer one or more questions from this section.)

Question 4

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

Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on the talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world- the clearest, the most logical, that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as lang as they hold fast to their language, it is as if they had the key to their prison.

- i. What deeper meaning does M. Hamel attribute to the French language in this extract, beyond its use as a means of communication? [3]

- ii. How does M. Hamel's portrayal of the French language reflect the political context of the story? [3]
- iii. Why does M. Hamel use the phrase 'Never forget' it? What effect does it have on the students? [3]
- iv. In this extract, how does M. Hamel elevate the importance of the French language compared to other languages, and what does it reveal about his character? [3]
- v. What might M. Hamel's emphasis on the beauty and pride of the French language indicate about his feelings towards the German imposition in the region? [4]

Question 5

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

"What are you doing out here? Asked the officer," said Leonard Mead.

"What's wrong with that?"

- i. What does the interaction between Leonard Mead and the officer reveal about the nature of the society in which Mead lives? [3]
- ii. What does the officer's question imply about societal expectation and the role of individuality? [3]
- iii. How does Leonard Mead's response to the officer, 'just walking', reflect his attitude towards societal norms? [3]
- iv. Where was Mead when he saw a lone car? What was the lone car in actuality? [3]
- v. How does the exchange contribute to the dystopian tone of the story? [4]

SECTION-D

Treasure Chest: (Poetry)

(Answer one or more questions from this section.)

Question 6

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

'But now there comes a billy goat, a most sagacious fellow,

"He downs his horns and charges straight, with bellow

answering 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".

- i. Based on the poem, give any three characteristic features that you can associate with Bhisma Lochan sharma. [3]
- ii. How did the world get the golden gift of silence? Mention two ways in which music helps the person. [3]
- iii. What is the significance of calling the billy goat 'sagacious'? [3]
- iv. Why do you think the poet uses the phrase 'golden gift' to describe silence? [3]
- v. The poet tries to furnish a message in the poem. What is the message? Does he do it successfully? [4]

Question 7

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

And truly 'twas a gallant thing to see that crowning show

Valour and love, and a king above, and the royal beasts below.

- i. Describe the scene at the beginning of the poem. [3]
- ii. "Leigh Hunt uses vivid sounds and visual images to describe the contest between the royal beasts in the pit.' Justify with close reference to the text. [3]
- iii. Who was the 'beauteous lively dame' mentioned in the poem? What prompted her to do what she had done? [3]
- iv. Explain the following lines in your own words. [3]
 - a. 'The occasion is divine'.
 - b. 'Faith gentlemen, we are better here than there'.
- v. When king Francis exclaims, 'rightly done!', what action of Count de Lorge does he applaud? Why do you think the Count behaved the way he did? [4]

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