

THE CATHEDRAL & JOHN CONNON SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION - JANUARY 2008
ENGLISH LITERATURE

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DATE : 04.01.08
STD. X

MARKS : 80
TIME : 2 hrs

**Answer five questions. One question from Section A, B and C
must be answered and two more questions.**

SECTION A : DRAMA : JULIUS CAESAR

Q1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Cassius : This day I breathed first. Time is come round,
And where I did begin, there shall I end;
My life is run his compass. Sirrah, what news?

- a. Where is Cassius? Who is 'Sirrah'? What instructions had Cassius given to another of his men? [3]
- b. Earlier Cassius had expressed the same views as mentioned in this extract. To whom had he expressed these views? What anxiety had he voiced? [3]
- c. What news does 'Sirrah' convey to Cassius? [3]
- d. How does Cassius react? What does he ask of Sirrah? [3]
- e. Explain Cassius' mood in this scene. Give other examples from the text to substantiate your answer. What are your feelings for Cassius at this point of time? [4]

Q2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Brutus : Alas, good Cassius, do not think of him.
If he love Caesar, all that he can do
Is to himself, take thought and die for Caesar:
And that were much he should; for he is given
To sports, to wildness and much company.

- a. What is the occasion for this dialogue? Who is being discussed? Who had brought up his name? [3]
- b. What apprehensions had Cassius just voiced? Quote and explain the line that sums up his anxiety. [3]

This paper comprises 4 pages

- c. Why does Brutus dismiss Cassius' fear of this person? Explain the line "all that he can do is to himself, take thought and die for Caesar." [3]
- d. Who proves to be right in the end? Explain. [3]
- e. Despite all these utterances, the person under discussion pays Brutus a fitting tribute at the end of the play. Explain in your own words this tribute. Would you express the same thoughts about Brutus? [4]

SECTION B : POETRY : WHISPERS OF IMMORTALITY

- Q3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

No,
The root is to be pulled out -
Out of the anchoring earth;
It is to be roped, tied
And pulled out - snapped out
Or pulled out entirely

(Gieve Patel)

- a. Name the poem from which the extract given above is taken. What other achievements does the poet have? [3]
- b. How has the poet described the growth of the tree at the beginning of the poem? [3]
- c. What is the effect of the word 'No' in the extract? What other ineffective measures had the poet mentioned? [3]
- d. What do the words 'anchoring earth' imply? [3]
- e. What message is the poet trying to convey to the reader through this poem? Comment on the end of the poem and state what your feelings are. [4]

- Q4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

I, loving freedom, and untried;
No sport of every random gust,
Yet being to myself a guide,
Too blindly have reposed my trust.

- a. Name the poet. With which literary movement is his name synonymous? Name two features of this movement. [3]
- b. To which period of his life is the poet referring? What kind of a life did he lead? [3]

- c. What does he realise in the remaining lines of the stanza from which this extract is taken? [3]
- d. What explanation does he give for this realization? What does he long for? [3]
- e. How does he bring out the duality of Duty? According to the poet, what role does duty play for other creatures / things? Would you agree that the poet's plea at the end of the poem is typical of someone approaching the latter phase of his life? [4]

SECTION C : PROSE : AN ANTHOLOGY OF SHORT STORIES

- Q5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

He went towards his parents gaily, and walked abreast of them for a while, being however, soon left behind, attracted by the little insects and worms along the way.

- a. Who is 'he'? What occasion is being celebrated and where? Where is he headed? [3]
- b. To what other things was the boy attracted? How did his parents react to his pleas? [3]
- c. What 'bold request' did he make to his parents? Where was he at that time? What response did he get? Why? [3]
- d. How has the author described the boy's plight? [3]
- e. Who was the boy's saviour? How did he endeavour to reassure the boy? What was the irony of the situation? If you were in the boy's situation, what would you have done? [4]
- Q6. P.G. Wodehouse has depicted a Headmaster who is atypical of his time. Bring out the truth of this statement in light of the story 'The Prize Poem'. Your answer should **not** be a narration of the entire story but must focus on relevant details. [16]

Q7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

I had not been sitting there long before my attention became attracted to a man in a punt who, I noticed with some surprise, wore a jacket and cap exactly like mine.

- a. Where is Jerome? What is he doing? Why? [3]
- b. What does he notice about this man? [3]
- c. Who else was attracted to the man? What did they do? [3]
- d. Who arrived immediately after this? What was their reaction? [3]
- e. In what manner did they proceed to behave? [4]
- Explain the humour of the ensuing situation. [4]

Q8. Four men make tall claims about the trout in the inn. Explain [16]
how each claim becomes more colourful and culminates in an anti-climax.
