
ENGLISH
Paper 2
Literature in English
(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 allowed for writing the answers.

*Attempt **five** questions in all.*

*You must attempt **one** question from each of the Sections **A, B** and **C** and any **two** other questions.*

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets[].

SECTION A - DRAMA

Shakespeare : Julius Caesar

Question 1

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

Portia : Is Brutus sick, — and is it physical
To walk unbraced, and suck up the humours
Of the dank morning? What, is Brutus sick, —
And will he steal out of his wholesome bed,
To dare the vile contagion of the night,
And tempt the rheumy and unpurged air
To add unto his sickness? No, my Brutus;
You have some sick offence within your mind,
Which, by the right and virtue of my place,
I ought to know of;

- (i) State the reasons given by Portia before this extract which make her conclude that Brutus has some sick offence within his mind. [3]
- (ii) Mention the three things that Portia points out to prove that she can keep her husband's secrets. [3]
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This Paper consists of 8 printed pages.

Turn over

- (iii) Explain the meaning of 'And will he steal out of his wholesome bed to dare the vile contagion of the night, and tempt the rheumy and unpurged air to add unto his sickness'. What was the Elizabethan belief about the night air? [3]
- (iv) Earlier in the same scene, what reasons does Brutus give for not wanting Antony killed? [3]
- (v) Of the two women characters in the play, Portia and Calphurnia, who impresses you more? Justify your answer. [4]

Question 2

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

Antony : Villains! you did not so, when your vile daggers
 Hack'd one another in the sides of Caesar :
 You show'd your teeth like apes, and fawn'd like hounds,
 And bow'd like bondmen, kissing Caesar's feet;
 Whilst damned Casca, like a cur, behind
 Struck Caesar on the neck. O you flatterers!

- (i) Who are referred to as *villains*? How does one of the *villains* react to being called a flatterer? [3]
- (ii) Explain the reference to Hybla bees made by Cassius and Brutus just before the above extract. [3]
- (iii) Later Cassius says, 'You know that I held Epicurus strong, and his opinion; now I change my mind, and partly credit things that do presage.' What does Cassius mean by this? Why does he change his mind and *partly credit things that do presage*? [3]
- (iv) Towards the end of this scene, Cassius says to Brutus, 'Then, if we lose this battle, you are contented to be led in triumph through the streets of Rome?' What is Brutus' response to this? [3]
- (v) Citing examples from the play, briefly contrast the characters of Brutus and Antony. [4]

The Winslow Boy : Terence Rattigan.

Question 3

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

Sir Robert: (*leaning forward and glaring at Ronnie with the utmost venom*):

I suggest, that the time has at last come for you to undo some of the misery you have caused, by confessing to us all now that you are a forger, a liar and a thief!

Ronnie : (*in tears*): I'm not ! I'm not ! I'm not ! I didn't do it —

Grace has flown to his side and now envelops him.

Arthur : This is outrageous, sir —

- (i) Who is Sir Robert? Account for his presence here. What reason does he give for being in a hurry to leave the Winslow house? [3]
- (ii) What are the three hardships that the Winslow family will have to face as a result of Ronnie's activity? [3]
- (iii) What advice has Sir Robert just given Ronnie regarding this? How does Ronnie react to the advice? What is Sir Robert's unexpected statement before he takes leave of the Winslow family? [3]
- (iv) Briefly discuss the three possibilities that Sir Robert has suggested in connection with what Ronnie has done at the Naval College. [3]
- (v) What is Kate's opinion about Sir Robert as expressed to her father when she learns that Sir Robert has been approached by him? How does her attitude change later? [4]

Question 4

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

Desmond : I trust you do not object to me employing this rather furtive entry.

The crowds at the front door are most alarming —

Arthur : Come in, Desmond. Why have you left the Court?

Desmond : My partner will be holding the fort. He is perfectly competent, I promise you.

Arthur : I'm glad to hear it.

Desmond : I wonder if I might see Catherine alone. I have a matter of some urgency to communicate to her —

- (i) Who is Desmond? What is the *furtive entry* that he has employed? Which 'matter of some urgency' has Desmond come to communicate to Catherine? [3]
- (ii) Give a brief account of the conversation Desmond has with Catherine. [3]
- (iii) Why are the crowds there at the front door? What does Arthur want to tell the waiting crowds? What does he eventually tell them? [3]
- (iv) What does Desmond say about Sir Robert a little later? Mention the sacrifice Sir Robert has made. [3]
- (v) State your opinion of Desmond as seen in the play. Contrast his character with that of John Watherstone. [4]

SECTION B – POETRY

Wings of Poesy

Question 5

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

Unknown, yet well-known to the eye of faith!

Ah, I have heard that wail far, far away

In distant lands, by many a sheltered bay,

When slumbered in his cave the water-wraith

And the waves gently kissed the classic shore

Of France or Italy, beneath the moon

When earth lay tranced in a dreamless swoon:

And every time the music rose, — before

Mine inner vision rose a form sublime,

Thy form, O Tree, as in my happy prime

I saw thee, in my own loved native clime.

(*Our Casuarina Tree* by Toru Dutt)

- (i) Explain in your own words the first line of the extract. What is the 'wail' that can be heard? Where is it coming from? [3]
- (ii) Give a detailed account of what the poet sees when her casement is thrown wide open at dawn. [3]
- (iii) Describe the tree as mentioned in the beginning of the poem. [3]
- (iv) Why is the tree very precious to the poet? [3]
- (v) At the end of the poem, the poet expresses her wish to honour the tree. How does she hope to do this? What does she hope to achieve by this action of hers? State two aspects of the poem that have appealed to you. [4]

Question 6

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

"Mother dear, we cannot stay."
 The wild white horses foam and fret.
 "Margaret! Margaret!"
 Come, dear children, come away down.
 Call no more.
 One last look at the white-walled town,
 And the little grey church on the windy shore.
 Then come down.
 She will not come though you call all day.
 Come away, come away.

(*The Forsaken Merman* by Matthew Arnold.)

- (i) Who is Margaret? Where is she? What has made her leave her family? [3]
- (ii) Who is addressing the children? Why does the speaker hope that children's calling might make Margaret return? [3]
- (iii) Explain 'The wild white horses foam and fret.' Give two other reasons why the speaker wants the children to come away. [3]
- (iv) Describe the world that the speaker inhabits. [3]

- (v) State the significance of the *white walled town* and *the little grey church on the windy shore*. At the end of the poem, why does the speaker lose hope and tell the children *to call no more*? Comment on the element of sadness in the poem. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE
A Miscellany of Short Stories

Question 7

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

While the tank was being brought the stranger looked about him.

“Thinking better of it?” said the manager.

“No, Sir,” the man replied. “I was thinking I should want some bathing trunks.”

“We can soon fix you up with those,” the manager said.

“I’ll show you where to change.”

Leaving the stranger somewhere out of sight, he came back to his wife.

“Do you think we ought to let him do it?” she asked.

“Well, it’s his funeral. You wanted us to have a dangerous act, and now we’ve got it.”

“Yes, I know, but _____.”

- (i) Who is the stranger? How has he been described in the story? [3]
- (ii) What is the dangerous act that the stranger is going to perform? Why is it considered dangerous? Name a dangerous act which has been mentioned earlier in the story. [3]
- (iii) Give reasons why the Manager’s wife wants a dangerous act performed. [3]
- (iv) Explain the preparations made for the dangerous act. [3]
- (v) “Well, it’s his funeral.” Why does the Manager say so? What does it reveal about his attitude? Comment on the way the story ends. [4]

Question 8

'Rama Rao felt very happy as he reflected that in less than ten minutes the train from Trichinopoly would be arriving.' With vivid detail, trace the events, following the collapse of the gramophone company, that lead Rama Rao to the situation described in the above lines.

[16]

The Village by the Sea : Anita Desai

Question 9

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

'Hari drew pictures in the sand with his toe as he stood listening. He really could not picture that amount any more than the simple goatman could, although he had spent a few years at school. He, too, was dazzled by the picture Biju drew of the future even if he did not quite believe in it. There was too much danger at sea, too much risk. He knew how many men lost their lives at sea, how many were drowned each monsoon, how many boats were wrecked and never came back at all. At the same time the thought of sailing far, far out to sea and never coming back or else only with riches untold, attracted him strongly.

When Ramu came by on his cycle and said, "Hey, Hari, come with me," he turned and went with him, plodding along in the deep, hot sand, wondering whether to side with Biju or with those who disbelieved Biju. Ramu certainly did not believe him.

- (i) Who is Biju? Describe the picture of the future painted by Biju. [3]
- (ii) Give reasons why Ramu does not believe Biju. [3]
- (iii) Why, according to Ramu is it *better to have a job, to earn daily wages?* [3]
- (iv) On further reflection, which three different possibilities does Hari see about the ways of earning a livelihood? [3]
- (v) 'Life is difficult' for Hari and his family.' Describe the difficulties they have to face in the village. [4]

Question 10

Hari's arrival at the Sri Krishna Eating House, lonely, hungry and tired, marks the beginning of a new chapter in his life. Give an account of Hari's varied experiences while working at this place, as well as of the useful things he learns from Mr. Panwallah.

Three Men in a Boat : Jerome K. Jerome

Question 11

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

'Then Herr Slossenn Boschen got up, and swore at us in German (which I should judge to be a singularly effective language for that purpose), and he danced, and shook his fists, and called us all the English he knew. He said he had never been so insulted in all his life.'

- (i) Who is Herr Slossenn Boschen? Where does the narrator meet him? What brings the memory of Herr Boschen to the narrator's mind?
- (ii) Who first speaks to the narrator about Herr Boschen? What is the narrator told?
- (iii) Describe the behaviour of the audience during Herr Boschen's performance.
- (iv) Explain clearly why Herr Boschen feels insulted. What signs of displeasure does he show prior to getting up and swearing at his audience?
- (v) Soon after this incident the narrator and his friends go to Sunbury. Describe their experience when they try to row up the river, while sculling.

Question 12

'The monstrous trout kept in a dusty old glass case fascinated the narrator and his friends.' Narrate the way in which the trout is described by various people. Bring out the humour in the different descriptions of the trout.



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