

ST. THOMAS' SCHOOL, AGRA
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS

Time: 2 hrs.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

MM: 80 Marks

CLASS VIII

Date:

Instructions: Attempt **ALL** the questions in Section A. Attempt **ONE** question each from Section B, C and D. Then, attempt **ONE** additional question from anywhere out of Sections B, C and D. The final number of questions to be attempted from the entire paper should be **FIVE** (Including Question 1 in Section A).

Section - A

Question I. Pick the most appropriate option and write it in your answer script. Make sure to copy down both the option number and the option text for the sake of clarity. [16]

1. Rooms without thick walls and strong doors where money and other precious items are kept to prevent them from being stolen.
 - a. Garage
 - b. Store room
 - c. Vaults
 - d. Infirmary
2. These words- "And this is my country as much as it is yours." Were spoken by
 - a. Patil
 - b. Mohan
 - c. Amma
 - d. Babu
3. The man sits beside Carole. The woman takes the _____ seat.
 - a. Window
 - b. Middle
 - c. Corner
 - d. Aisle
4. He was always in demand for Amateur plays put up by the club in neighborhood. His name had appeared on
 - a. Handbills
 - b. Hoardings
 - c. Newspapers
 - d. Magazines

5. Rassendyll refuse to let the Marshal provide him extra protection while riding through Black Michael's quarter of the city because
 - a. He believed that it was what the real king Rudolf would have done.
 - b. The cheers made him think that the public would not harm him.
 - c. He believed a true king would be fearless and trusting.
 - d. He was brave enough to fight anyone alone.
6. Due to the absence of gravity
 - a. Claribel weighed practically nothing
 - b. Her food requirements were tiny
 - c. She was not worried, as most animals would have been
 - d. All of the above.
7. What is left of the Cranes which used to dance in the fields?
 - a. Grainy video footage
 - b. Their voice recordings
 - c. Their footprints.
 - d. None of the above.
8. What happens with a water-lily with each passing day.
 - a. It grows larger in size and gets a deeper colour
 - b. It grows smaller in size
 - c. It shrinks down and withers
 - d. It gets dull in colour
9. Antonym of whisper is
 - a. Bareness
 - b. Howling
 - c. Murder
 - d. Confused
10. He was a rising young actor in Baren Mullick's film
 - a. Naresh Dutt
 - b. Chanchal Kumar
 - c. Shoshanna
 - d. Mr Pakrashi
11. Ceremony at which someone is officially crowned king or queen
 - a. Anointment
 - b. Understudy
 - c. Investiture
 - d. Coronation
12. Passages that run through the space station- used for air circulation
 - a. Aisle
 - b. Pathway
 - c. Ventilating shafts
 - d. Runway

13. Oldest and worst tempered animal on the animal farm
- Bluebell
 - Jessie
 - Pincher
 - Benjamin
14. Meetings at the animal farm ended with the singing of
- Beasts of France
 - Beasts of Germany
 - Beasts of England
 - Beasts of Africa
15. The pigs had set aside the _____ as a headquarters for themselves.
- Dining -room
 - Harness-room
 - Kitchen
 - Assembly-hall
16. Growing of water-lily is compared to
- Blooming of a lotus
 - Upbringing of a child
 - Unfolding of a poem to reveal its inner self
 - All of the above

Section - B (Prose)

(Attempt one or more questions from this section)

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

Question II.

Yes, poor dear,' said the old woman, as she took the child away from its dead mother.

'Poor dear.'

"She was a good-looking girl, said the doctor, as he put on his hat and gloves. 'Where did she come from?'

"She was brought here last night,' said the old woman.

"She was lying in the street. She had walked a long way and her shoes had holes in them. Nobody knows where she came from, or where she was going to.

The doctor raised the dead woman's left hand.

(a) What happened to the girl who died? What was her condition when she came there? Why did the doctor raise her left hand? [3]

(b) What happened just after the extract? What did the old woman do for the baby? What name was given to the baby? [3]

(c) Why was the place called workhouse? What was the condition of the boys living there? [3]

(d) Why did Mr Bumble choose twist as the surname for the baby? Describe the physical features of the child when he turned nine. [3]

(e) What were the last wishes of the mother who died? Who were the people present there? [4]

Question III.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

That night on his way back from school, Phatik had a bad headache with a fit of shivering. He felt he was going to have an attack of malarial fever. His one great fear was that he would be a nuisance to his aunt.

(a) In what situation does Phatik experience a bad headache and shivering on his way back from school? [3]

(b) What was the boy's mistake for which his aunt pursed her lips in contempt? [3]

(c) How does the author convey Phatik's anticipation of an attack of malarial fever? [3]

(d) What happened the next morning? How had weather proved to be an obstacle take an action? [3]

(e) Who brought out Phatik and in what condition? [4]

Section C (Poetry)

(Attempt one or more questions from this section)

Question IV.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

Stumbling to the street

We fell, tripped by something at our feet.

I gasped out, when I saw it was a head:

'Excuse me, please excuse me-' He was dead:

A gate had crushed him.

a. Who is the speaker and where is he? [3]

b. Why did the speaker gasp when he tripped by something at their feet? [3]

c. What had actually happened to that 'something' that made them trip? [3]

d. What was the doctor's anxiety before he came on to the street? How did he overcome it? [3]

- e. What is the central message of the poem? Is the title of the poem suitable? Give reason, for your answer. [4]

Question V.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

**I remember, I remember,
The roses, red and white,
The violets and the lily-cups,
Those flowers made of light!**

- a. Name the poem and describe the mood of the poet when this stanza begins? [3]
b. What does the poet remember about the house where he was born?? [3]
c. What does the poet mean when he says – ‘Those flowers made of light’? [3]
d. What has ‘my brother set’ as mentioned by the poet in the poem? Why has the poet mentioned this in the poem? [3]
e. How does the poet contrast his childhood period with his present adulthood in the first stanza of the poem? [4]

Section-D (Drama)

(Attempt one or more questions from this section)

Question VI.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

**Caesar: What can be avoided
Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?
Yet Caesar shall go forth; for these predictions
Are to the world in general as for Caesar.**

- a. Where are the speakers? Who is Calpurnia and what request does she make in the beginning of the scene? [3]
b. What does Caesar instruct the servant in the beginning of the scene? What does it reflect about his character? [3]
c. Investigate the role of superstition in Calpurnia’s character and how it shapes her fears for Caesar’s safety. [3]

- d. Examine the relationship dynamics between Calpurnia and Caesar in this scene. How does Calpurnia's concern for Caesar's safety provide insight into their marriage and the emotional complexity?" [3]
- e. How was Decius successful in persuading Caesar to go to the Senate? How did he interpreted Calpurnia's dream? [4]

Question VII.

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

[16]

**Portia: I would have thee there, and here again,
Ere I can tell thee what thou shouldst do there.
O constancy, be strong upon my side,
Set a huge mountain 'tween my heart and tongue!**

- a. Who does 'thee' refer to? What does Portia ask him to do? [3]
- b. What is Portia's state of mind and why? [3]
- c. Explain in your own words what does Portia plead constancy and why? [3]
- d. In the previous scene, what explanation has Portia given to prove her strength of Endurance? [3]
- e. Discuss the portrayal of inner conflict in Portia's lines. How does Shakespeare use her character to explore the personal sacrifices and challenges faced by individuals who are connected to those in positions in power? [4]

X—X—X