MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS

S.4 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

TIME: 2 HOURS

1. **Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.**

“But I feel this, Helen; I must dislike those who, whatever I do to please them, persist in

disliking me; I must resist those who punish me unjustly. It is as natural as that I should love those who show me affection, or submit to punishment when I feel it is deserved.”

Helen Burns: “Heathens and savage tribes hold that doctrine, but Christians and civilized nations disown it.”

Jane Eyre: “How? I don’t understand.”

Helen Burns: “It is not violence that best overcomes hate — nor vengeance that most certainly heals

injury.”

Jane Eyre: “What then?”

Helen Burns: “Read the New Testament, and observe what Christ says, and how He acts; make His word

your rule, and His conduct your example.”

Jane Eyre: “What does He say?”

Helen Burns: “Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you and

despitefully use you.”

Jane Eyre: “Then I should love Mrs. Reed, which I cannot do; I should bless her son John, which is

impossible.”

Helen Burns: “Life appears to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity or registering wrongs. Weare, and must be, one and all, burdened with faults in this world: but the time will soon come when, Itrust, we shall put them off in putting off our corruptible bodies; when debasement and sin will fall from us with this cumbrous frame of flesh, and only the spark of the spirit will remain, — the impalpable principle of light and thought, pure as when it left the Creator to inspire the creature: whence it came it will return; perhaps again to be communicated to some being higher than man — perhaps to passthrough gradations of glory, from the pale human soul to brighten to the seraph! Surely it will never, on the contrary, be suffered to degenerate from man to fiend.”

Questions.

1. Imagine you are having a difficult time with someone who does not like you no matter how hard you try to please them. How might you approach the situation differently considering the conversation between Jane and Helen? (4 marks)
2. What message do you think the author is trying to convey through this conversation? (4 marks)
3. What qualities of character does Helen Burns demonstrate in her conversations with Jane Eyre? (6 marks)
4. Imagine you are facing a difficult situation where someone has wronged you and you are filled with anger, hurt and resentment. What lessons can you learn from Helen’s words? (6 marks)

**Section B (choose one question)**

1. Characters are people involved in the actions in a text. We can identify character traits by what characters do, say or other people say about them. Using the text Shadows of Time, choose a character and analyze his or character traits. (20 marks)
2. Writers aim at exposing different vices in their works of art. Identify and explain such vices in any literature work you have read ( poetry/ drama/ novel) 20 marks