## **PC110** Language and Literature

## I. Read the following and select the most appropriate option: 4 marks

Larry Schwarz, 36, has tinkered with toys all his life. As a child, he would pull apart his toys, then glue a mishmash of the parts together. He'd make toy rockets, cars, and buildings out of boxes. Although he put his toys away long enough to become a child actor, a stand-up comic, and even a lawyer, nothing could shake Schwarz's childhood passion. In 1997, he started the Rumpus Toy Company, where he invents all the toys.

**Total Marks: 25** 

Schwarz knows it takes guts to compete with giant toy companies like Mattel and Hasbro. That's why he invents wacky toys like Gus Gutz, a stuffed doll with 12 squishy vital organs, and Sy Klops, a one-eyed doll. "We try to create clever stuff we want to play with," says Schwarz. Even the boxes are playful. Printed outlines and instructions on some Rumpus toy boxes allow you to turn them into clubhouses, TVs, buses, or gliders.

Schwarz dreamed up many toys while in law school. Instead of taking notes in class, he filled 26 notebooks with toy sketches! Still, he managed to get his law degree. Today, instead of working in a courtroom, Schwarz skateboards around two pinball machines, a toy showroom, a Dalmatian named Kirby, and 30 employees at Rumpus' New York City headquarters.

Rumpus toys and the Rumpus interactive Web site have won numerous awards, including the National Parenting Center's Seal of Approval. In 1999, Schwarz established the Rumpus Kids FUNdation, which provides children and young adults with both human and financial support. Schwarz loves to hit the highway in his Rumpus Road Rocket, a multicolored, retired school bus. He visits hospitals and schools, bringing toys, good cheer, and advice. Says Schwarz, "If you believe in something enough and think you can do it, you really should give it a try."

- 1. In what way does Rumpus Toys encourage recycling?
  - a. by inventing new toys from old destroyed toys
  - b. by skateboarding instead of using a car
  - c. by bringing used toys to schools and hospitals
  - d. by giving directions to turn toy boxes into playthings
- 2. How can you tell that Larry Schwarz was not very interested in becoming a lawyer?
  - a. He was not paying attention in class.
  - b. He brought toys to class.
  - c. He failed to complete law school
  - d. He didn't go to class so he could play pinball
- 3. Rumpus Toy Company
  - a. is as big as Mattel and Hasbro.
  - b. employs children.
  - c. is the result of a man going after his dream.
  - d. is suing Mattel for stealing the design for Gus Gutz.

- 4. Which paragraph from the story indicates that Larry Schwarz is generous?
  - a. paragraph one
  - b. paragraph three
  - c. paragraph four
  - d. paragraph five
- 5. Of the careers listed, which was not one of Schwarz's?
  - a. bus driver
  - b. actor
  - c. comedian
  - d. lawyer
- 6. Which saying do you think Larry Schwarz's story best illustrates?
  - a. "Dreams can come true."
  - b. "Stay young at heart."
  - c. "A penny saved is a penny earned."
  - d. "Never tell a lie."
- 7. Which sentence is true?
  - a. Larry Schwarz never graduated from law school.
  - b. Larry Schwarz does nothing but play all day.
  - c. Rumpus is a major manufacturer of pinball machines.
  - d. Larry Schwarz has a dog in his headquarters.
- 8. Why does the article state that Larry Schwarz needs guts to be in his line of work?
  - a. It is dangerous to skateboard in New York City.
  - b. He owns a small toy company and there is a lot of competition from large toy companies.
  - c. He invented a doll called Gus Gutz.
  - d. He is responsible for paying 21 employees.
  - II. Read the following and fill if either of these statements are true or false: 5 marks

## Allusion

To explain a topic, an author sometimes uses words or terms that relate to a second topic. The author assumes that the readers have enough knowledge about that second subject to understand what is being talked about. When this is done, we call it an allusion. The author is alluding to the second subject. To allude to a subject means that an indirect reference is made to that subject. To

allude literally means to play. Sometimes the author is playing with language in such a way that the reader might be amused.

In the article just read, Schwarz named a one-eyed doll Sy Klops. Schwarz is alluding to The Odyssey, a long story in which the hero, Odysseus, tricks a oneeyed monster, Cyclops, so that he and his men can escape being eaten. Another allusion is found in the name Gus Gutz. Unless the reader knows that another name for one's vital internal organs is "guts," the allusion would be missed. In both instances, Schwarz is playing with the sound of the words. He has spelled Cyclops as "Sy Klops" and guts as "Gutz." Note that an allusion is not the same as an illusion, something that deceives or misleads.

1. To allude only means playing with languageTrue/ False	
2. "Gutz" is pronounced the same as "guts."True/False	
3. Odysseus had only one eyeTrue/False	
4. To understand an allusion, a reader needs to know a lot of different topics	<mark>True</mark> /False
5. Allusion uses only direct references to a second topicTrue/False	
6. Sy Klops was a monster found in The OdysseyTrue/False	
7. Odysseus ate his menTrue/False	
8. Odysseus saved his men from being eaten by CyclopsTrue/False	
9. When Schwarz names some of his toys, he is playing with the sound of words.	
<mark>True/</mark> False	
10. To understand an allusion, we need to understand how illusions work.	True/ <mark>False</mark>

## III. Based on our class readings and discussions, fill the most appropriate answer: 16 marks

- 1. What does Sir Ken Robinson contend about education?
  - a. Literacy is more important than creativity.
  - b. Creativity is more important than literacy.
  - c. Both should have the same status.
  - d. Arts and dance should be treated with equal importance as Maths and Science.
- 2. What is the theme of the poem "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus"?
  - a. All great things must fall
  - b. Icarus was punished for his disobedience. He should have been more careful.
  - c. Everyday work like farming, fishing, cattle rearing is more important than human excesses of flying
  - d. People are indifferent to the tragedy of Icarus
- 3. What is ironic about the plot of "The Open Window"?
  - a. A man whose nerves are already a problem is treated to a trick that worsens his condition.
  - b. It is ironic that a doctor would think that spending time in the country would help a person's nerves.

- c. A woman's husband went hunting and got hunted down instead
- d. It is ironic that the girl's name is Vera, which seems to be derived from 'veracity'
- 4. In "The Open Window" if the term "romance" is interpreted as meaning "adventure" or "fun," then what is meant by the last line of the story, which states "Romance at short notice was her specialty."?
  - a. Vera specialised in fixing up couples. She was a "match maker."
  - b. She entertained herself by creating amusing situations at a moment's notice.
  - c. The self possessed girl was fond of reading romantic literature which made her very creative
  - d. Vera could fall in love at a moment's notice
- 5. Framton thinks that Mrs. Sappleton is delusional when she sees the men returning from the hunt, and he wants to "convey sympathetic comprehension" to Vera, so he turns to look at her. What is another way to say the quoted phrase?
  - a. He wants to show her how sick he is.
  - b. He wants to try to shoot snipe.
  - c. He wants to let Vera know he feels the same way.
  - d. He could not comprehend what was going on.
- 6. How does Framton Nuttel's sister attempt to help him during his visit to the country?
  - a. His sister warns him about the dangers of the woods, especially the hunting ground with quicksand.
  - b. Framton Nuttel's sister writes out instructions and maps for her brother.
  - c. She provides him with letters of introduction so that he will go out and meet people.
  - d. She plays tricks on him by telling him lies about hunters lost in the woods
- 7. What is the theme of the poem "The Mushroom Hunters" by Neil Gaiman?
  - a. Men were hunters and women were gatherers
  - b. Women used science in everyday life
  - c. Women collected mushroom for feeding their children
  - d. Mushrooms can be hallucinogenic or poisonous, so women were careful with it
- 8. Why does the Gaiman mention "sling for the baby" and "flint pestle to smash..."
  - a.To explain inventions by women that are generally ignored
  - b. To explain that women needed implements at home even during prehistoric times
  - c.To illustrate that these inventions came after inventions of arrow heads
  - d. To show how mushrooms made these inventions happen
- 9. What reasons are NOT mentioned in the video "What is Literature for" by Allain de Botton?
  - a. Literature saves you time
  - b. Literature makes you a better person
  - c. Literature prepares you for failure

- d. Literature makes you popular
- 10. Why did the poet William Carlos William write "The Landscape at the Fall of Icarus" without any punctuation marks?
  - a. He only cares of about the ideas he conveys not the grammar
  - b. It is his personal style not to use punctuation
  - c. He may want to convey the sense of breathlessness that Icarus may have felt
  - d. All of the above
- 11. "We lived yuppie lives in the heart of Delhi. We had decent, soulless jobs." Why do the authors mention this?
  - a. To tell us how boredom in life inspired them to take the journey.
  - b. To convey how they were both dissatisfied with their sad lives.
  - c. They were ordinary middle-class people.
  - d. They were scared to embark on this journey.
- 12. Of all the discussions we have had about Chandler Bing's statement "Dear God, this parachute is a knapsack", why do you think the authors have used it at the beginning of their chapter?
  - a. Chandler realises that he is in a hopeless conversation with Monica
  - b. Their own journey ahead could be dangerous
  - c. To pre-empt the fights authors Jha and Roy would have further in the book, quite like Monica and Chandler
  - d. Their budgeted journey may not cover the expenses for a parachute or even a branded knapsack
- 13. Why does Sir Ken Robinson narrate the story of the Nativity play performed by his son's class?
  - a. To illuminate how schools should have theatre in their curriculum
  - b. How theatre makes students creative
  - c. To show how rote learning by a student spoiled the entire play
  - d. To show how children are not afraid of making mistakes
- 14. "Gillian isn't sick, she is a dancer..." Select who the speaker is.
  - a. Vera
  - b. Doctor
  - c. Dance instructor
  - d. Mrs Lynne
- 15. "Most people in India are not exactly from where you meet them; and even if they are, most Indians have a hometown beyond their hometown, a story of travel somewhere in the past which they are happy to narrate." Select who the speaker is.
  - a. The hotel owner at Jaipur
  - b. Devapriya Roy
  - c. Saurabh Jha
  - d. Samosa vendor

- 16. "The gloom of the present weather amplifies the romance of old Jaipur. But as usual, every medieval Indian moment gets interrupted by the aggressive signposting of MNCs Coke and Lux a study in postmodernity." Select who the speaker is.
  - a. A co-passenger in the blue-line bus
  - b. Devapriya Roy
  - c. Saurabh Jha
  - d. The rickshaw puller