



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWTOWN
SESSION 2024-25
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

CLASS: IX
SUBJECT: ENGLISH PAPER II [SET A]

FULL MARKS: 80
TIME: 2 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.

The paper has four sections.

Section A is compulsory- All questions in Section A must be answered.

You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any section of your choice.

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

This paper consists of six printed pages.

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this section)

Question 1

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below. (Please do not copy the question – simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.) [16]

(i) When is the feast of Lupercal celebrated?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 15th March | (b) 15th January |
| (c) 1st February | (d) 15th February |

(ii) *Hence! home, you idle creatures, get you home.* Who says this to the commoners?

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Flavius | (b) Marullus |
| (c) The first citizen | (d) The second citizen |

(iii) Caesar's reaction to the soothsayer's advice is one of _____.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| (a) anger | (b) pride |
| (c) indifference | (d) gratitude |

(iv) While explaining his mental condition to Cassius, Brutus says that he is _____.

- | |
|---|
| (a) suffering from internal conflict |
| (b) thinking of Caesar's growing popularity |
| (c) physically unwell |
| (d) suspicious of his friends |

(v) What is the main purpose of Act 1 scene (iii) of *Julius Caesar*?

- (a) to highlight the conspirator's plan
- (b) to introduce Caesar's character
- (c) to depict a battle scene
- (d) to show a festival celebration

(vi) What is Casca's reaction to the strange events occurring in Rome?

- (a) He is angry and vengeful
- (b) He is happy and hopeful
- (c) He is afraid and superstitious
- (d) He is calm and indifferent

(vii) Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- (a) Oliver's mother was married to an important officer in the town.
- (b) Oliver's mother was good looking.
- (c) Mr. Sowerberry was a tall and thin man.
- (d) The workhouse boys never had enough warm clothes.

(viii) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order:

1. Hughie strolled into the Palette Club about eleven o' clock and found Trevor sitting by himself in the smoking-room drinking hock and seltzer.
2. The servant came in and told Trevor that the frame-maker wanted to speak to him.
3. Hughie would not stop but walked home, feeling very unhappy and leaving Alan Trevor in fits of laughter.
4. When Hughie came in, he found Trevor putting the finishing touches to a wonderful life-size picture of a beggar-man.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) 4, 3, 1, 2 | (b) 4, 2, 1, 3 |
| (c) 3, 2, 4, 1 | (d) 1, 3, 2, 4 |

(ix) Why, I think Bonku is quite right. Isn't it natural that aliens should want to come to a place where there's a man like Bonkubihari? -Name the speaker.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Ramkanai | (b) Nidhu Babu |
| (c) Chandi Babu | (d) Bhairav Chakravarty |

(x) What was the age of Ang?

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| (a) 834 | (b) 14,000 |
| (c) 833 | (d) 1200 |

(xi) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from Bonku Babu's Friend:

1. The cup fell from Ramkanai's hand, shattering to pieces, and splattering hot tea on most of the others.
2. Bonku Babu was attacked by a spook.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) 2 is the effect of 1 | (b) 2 is the cause of 1 |
| (c) 1 and 2 are unrelated | (d) 1 is the example of 2 |

(xii) Name the poet of the poem, *Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat*.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| (a) T.S. Eliot | (b) Thomas Hood |
| (c) W.H. Auden | (d) A.L. Tennyson |

(xiii) Which of the following lines contains the same literary device as the one in “Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat”: *He will watch you without winking*

- (a) As fragile as a butterfly's wing
- (b) Because I could not stop for death-
 He kindly stopped me.
- (c) He was a lion in the fight
- (d) A big bug bit the little beetle
 But the little beetle bit the big bug back.

(xiv) Why does Skimbleshanks stop 'here and there'?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) to entertain the passengers | (b) to catch a flea |
| (c) to take the order of food | (d) to clean the floor |

(xv) What is the primary theme of “A Work of Artifice”?

- (a) the beauty of nature
- (b) the role of art in society
- (c) the constraints placed on women's lives
- (d) the importance of planting trees

(xvi) What is the impact of the gardener's actions on the bonsai tree?

- (a) It grows to its full potential
- (b) It remains small and confined
- (c) It dies
- (d) It becomes uncontrollable

SECTION B
DRAMA
(Julius Caesar- Shakespeare)

Question 2

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

Brutus: *Ay, Casca; tell us what hath chanc'd to-day,
That Caesar looks so sad.*
Casca: *Why, you were with him, were you not?*
Brutus: *I should not then ask Casca what had chanc'd.*

- (i) Where are they at this moment? Who else is present with Brutus and Casca? What reason did Brutus give for not joining the ceremonial race? [3]
- (ii) As Caesar and his followers return, what changes in their expressions are observed by Brutus? [3]
- (iii) For how many times was Caesar offered a crown? How did Caesar react to it? How did the commoners behave after seeing Caesar's reaction? [3]
- (iv) Who offered the crown to Julius Caesar? Why was he asked to touch Calphurnia during the holy chase? What warning did the soothsayer give to Caesar? [3]
- (v) Give any two examples from the scene to prove that Caesar was physically weak. Mention any one character trait of Brutus with suitable justification. [4]

Question 3

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

Cassius: *I know where I will wear this dagger then;
Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:
Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most strong;
Therein, ye gods, you tyrants do defeat:*

- (i) Who is Cassius speaking to? How did Cassius recognize the listener when the latter came to meet him at the beginning of the scene? Where does the scene take place? [3]
- (ii) What had the listener seen with his own eyes which got him breathless? [3]
- (iii) According to Cassius, how had he walked about the street on that perilous night? What had Cassius accused the listener of when the latter expressed his fear of natural calamities? [3]
- (iv) What according to Cassius was the real reason behind all the strange happenings in Rome? How can Cassius deliver himself from bondage? Why did he want to do so? [3]
- (v) Where did the conspirators decide to meet as mentioned by Cassius? What instructions does he give to Cinna a little later in the scene to win Brutus over to their side? What does this tell us about Cassius' nature? [4]

SECTION C
PROSE- SHORT STORIES
(Treasure Chest- A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

*'We name the new babies here in order from A to Z', he explained when people asked.
'I named the last one Swubble. This one is Twist.'*

- (i) In which country is the story set? As mentioned in the story, who lived in the workhouse? What did the doctor not find when he raised the left hand of Oliver's dead mother? [3]
- (ii) Who named Oliver Twist? What name would be given to the child born after Oliver? How did Oliver look at the age of nine? [3]
- (iii) What was the food given to the workhouse boys? How many times a day was the food served? What special thing was given to them on Sundays? [3]
- (iv) Why was Oliver shut in a dark room? What was written in the notice that appeared on the workhouse gate? What was the profession of Mr. Sowerberry? [3]
- (v) "The condition of the children living in the workhouse was miserable." Justify this statement using textual reference. Give any one character trait of Oliver with suitable justification. [4]

Question 5

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating. These are the great truths of modern life which Hughie Erskine never realized.

- (i) Describe the physical appearance of Hughie Erskine. What had he bequeathed from his father? [3]
- (ii) Name the girl whom Hughie loved. Why do you think her father disapproved his daughter's engagement with Hughie? What condition was given to Hughie by her father? [3]
- (iii) Describe the beggar model whom Hughie witnessed as soon as he entered Trevor's studio. [3]
- (iv) What did Hughie do to help the beggar man? Why do you think Hughie decided to help? What would Hughie have to sacrifice after helping the beggar? [3]
- (v) Who was the beggar in reality? What did he gift Hughie as mentioned towards the end of the story? How did that gift help Hughie? What does this incident tell us about the character trait of the 'beggar man'? [4]

SECTION D

POETRY

(Treasure Chest- A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

*Every day as he
whittles back the branches
the gardener croons,
It is your nature
to be small and cozy,
domestic and weak;
how lucky, little tree,
to have a pot to grow in.*

- (i) Which tree is referred to as the ‘little tree’ in the above extract? How tall could the ‘little tree’ grow in its natural environment? Where was it ideally meant to grow? [3]
- (ii) How does the gardener ensure that the ‘little tree’ remains little in size? Who does the ‘little tree’ symbolize in real life? [3]
- (iii) Which word from the extract suggests that the gardener enjoys his daily activity of nurturing the tree. Give the meaning of that word. According to the gardener, what is the nature of the ‘little tree’? [3]
- (iv) What is the size of the ‘little tree’? Where does it grow now? What does the ‘gardener’ metaphorically signify? [3]
- (v) Give two examples from the poem that symbolizes dwarfing of growth for human beings. How does the poem use the metaphor of the ‘little tree’ to comment on the societal beliefs prevalent in today’s time? [4]

Question 7

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

*And the passengers are frantic to a man –
Then Skimble will appear and he'll saunter to the rear:*

- (i) Where was the train heading to? What did the people guess about Skimbleshanks’ whereabouts when he was missing? Where was he at that time in reality? [3]
- (ii) What do the guards ask the passengers politely? Mention any two duties that were performed by Skimbleshanks on the train. [3]
- (iii) What do the passengers observe on entering their little den? Mention any two facilities which are available in the train for the passengers. [3]
- (iv) How does Skimbleshanks keep himself fresh, bright and alert? Where does the cat speak to the police? What does he do at Carlisle? [3]
- (v) How does Skimble bid goodbye to his passengers? What do you like the most in Skimbleshanks? If you were to give an alternative title to the text, what would it be? Give reasons for your choice. [4]