



**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWTOWN  
SESSION 2023-24  
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 seven 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) Oscar Wilde in the story, *The Model Millionaire* has commented that Romance is the privilege of the rich. The poor should rather be-
- Loving and compassionate
  - Caring
  - Potent and powerful
  - Practical and prosaic

- ii) Why could Hughie not continue with the dealing in sherry?
- He got tired of pekoe and souchong
  - It was little too dry
  - He was a butterfly among bulls and bears
  - Wanted to become an author
- iii) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from *Oliver Asks for More*:
- At the age of nine, Oliver was a pale, thin child.
  - The children never had enough food or warm clothes at the workhouse.
- 1 and 2 are unrelated
  - 1 is the effect of 2
  - 2 is the example of 1
  - 1 is the contradiction of 2
- iv) Choose the options that lists the sequence of events in the correct order:-
- Bonku Babu declares to others that he would not come for any further meetings.
  - Ang teaches Bonku Babu to speak up against injustice.
  - Even before Bonku Babu could bid a proper good bye, Ang leaped into his spaceship.
  - Bonku Babu tells Nidhu Babu that he will call him Nitwit.
- 1,2,3,4
  - 2,3,1,4
  - 4,2,1,3
  - 1,4,3,2
- v) How did the regulars at Sripati Babu's house make fun of Bonku Babu?
- By pulling his shirt
  - By asking him to solve difficult sums
  - By calling him Bunkum
  - By putting glue on his chair
- vi) The poet of the poem *The Night Mail* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- William Sydney Auden
  - Wystan Hugh Auden
  - William Somerset Auden
  - Wystan George Auden

vii) The Railway Cat watches the passengers without winking. What does this reflect about the cat?

- a) Alert
- b) interfering
- c) comical
- d) Argumentative

viii) Which of the following lines contain the same literary device as found in The Night Mail: *The gradient's against her, but she's on time*

- a) With myrtle mixed in my path
- b) The story jumped off the page
- c) As fast as cheetah
- d) She was a lion in the fight

ix) Which kind of grass has been mentioned in the poem *The Night Mail*?

- a) Moorland grass
- b) Long grass
- c) Cotton grass
- d) Beattock grass

x) What does Skimbleshanks do at Carlisle?

- a) Greets the stationmaster
- b) Supervise the luggage van
- c) Catch a flea
- d) Speaks to the policeman

xi) Cassius: *Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world like a Colossus...*  
Who was Colossus?

- a) Statue Jewish God
- b) Statue of Brutus' ancestor
- c) Statue of nobleman
- d) Statue of Apollo

- xii) '*Hence! Home, you idle creatures, get you home.*' Identify the speaker of the quoted sentence.
- a) Flavius
  - b) Marullus
  - c) Cicero
  - d) Cassius
- xiii) The common people are referred to as 'mechanical'. What does the word 'mechanical' mean here?
- a) robotic
  - b) working with machines
  - c) manual workers
  - d) emotionless
- xiv) *Marullus: Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?*  
Who is being to as 'he'?
- a) Pompey
  - b) Julius Caesar
  - c) carpenter
  - d) cobbler
- xv) '*I am not gamesome: I do lack some part of that quick spirit that is in Antony.*'  
Who is the speaker of the quoted line?
- a) Casca
  - b) Cassius
  - c) Brutus
  - d) Cicero
- xvi) How did Cassius recognize Cinna?
- a) By looking at his hat
  - b) By his gait
  - c) By his personality
  - d) By his manner of talking

**SECTION B**  
**DRAMA (Julius Caesar- Shakespeare)**

**Question 2**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

*Cassius: And why should Caesar be a tyrant then?  
Poor man! I know he would not be a wolf  
But that he sees the Romans are but sheep  
He were no lion, were not Roman hinds.*

- i) Where is the scene taking place? Who is Cassius speaking to? What mental state is the listener in? [3]
- ii) What strange sights did the listener witness just before this conversation? [3]
- iii) What according to Cassius was the real reason behind all the strange happenings in Rome? How does Cassius decide to deliver himself from this bondage? Where did the conspirators decide to assemble as mentioned by Cassius? [3]
- iv) What was scheduled to happen the next day at the Senate? To which animal does Cassius compare the Romans to? How does he describe Caesar in this context? [3]
- v) What impression do you form of Cassius's character after reading the first Act of the play? Give textual justifications to support your answer. Where would Cassius and the listener go as mentioned by Cassius at the end of the scene? Why did they plan to go there? [4]

**Question 3**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

*Caesar: Would he were fatter! But I fear him not;  
Yet if my name were liable to fear,  
I do not know the man I should avoid  
So soon as that spare Cassius.*

- i) Where is the scene taking place? Who is Caesar speaking to? Where is Caesar returning from? [3]
- ii) How does Caesar describe Cassius's physical features? What observation does he make about such people? [3]
- iii) As Caesar and his followers return, what changes in their expressions are observed by Brutus? [3]
- iv) Later in the scene, who explains the happenings of the day to Brutus and Cassius? How was this person taken out of the crowd by Brutus and Cassius? Why was this person chosen for this purpose? [3]
- v) For how many times was the crown offered to Caesar? What did Caesar do when the crown was offered? How did the common people react to this action of Caesar? What impression do you form of the commoners of Rome after reading the first Act of the play? [4]

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

**Question 4**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

*One morning, as he was on his way to Holland Park, where the Mertons lived, he dropped in to see a great friend of his, Alan Trevor.*

- i) Who is being referred to as ‘him’? Who was Alan Trevor? Why do you think that ‘he’ was going to the place where the Mertons lived? [3]
- ii) Describe the physical appearance of Alan. What did ‘he’ find Alan doing when he entered Alan’s studio? [3]
- iii) Elaborate on the features of Alan’s model. [3]
- iv) How much was the charge of the model? What price would Alan get for this painting? [3]
- v) What did ‘he’ give to the model? How did the old man react instantly? Explain one relevant theme of the text with suitable examples. [4]

**Question 5**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

*“Oliver Twist was born in a work house. His mother, a young woman, lay ill in bed. A doctor and an old woman stood by her side.”*

- i) Which country is the story set in? What was a workhouse for? What was the profession of Mr. Sowerberry? [3]
- ii) What happened to the young lady just after this extract? What did the doctor realize when he saw that there was no ring on Oliver’s mother’s finger? How did the old woman dress the baby? [3]
- iii) Who had invented the name for the baby? What was the pattern in which the babies were named? What name was given to the baby who was born just before Oliver? [3]
- iv) What were the boys given for meals? How was it different on Sundays? What does this reflect about the treatment that young boys received in the workhouse? [3]
- v) What did Oliver and his friends decide one day? Who used to serve the food to them? Describe his physical appearance. On reading about this event, what impression do you form of Oliver’s character? Justify with a suitable reason. [4]

**SECTION D**  
**POETRY**  
**(Treasure Chest- A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)**

**Question 6**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

*We must find him or the train can't start.  
All the guards and all the porters and the stationmaster's  
daughters  
They are searching high and low...*

- i) Who is being referred to as ‘him’? Who all are looking for ‘him’? [3]
- ii) What time of the night is it when there is a whisper heard down the line? Where was ‘him’ busy? How has the poet described the eyes of ‘him’? [3]
- iii) Who does ‘him’ supervise in the Sleeping Car Express? What does ‘him’ not approve of? [3]
- iv) What does the guard politely ask the passengers? How are the passengers certain that there would not be any mice in the train compartment? [3]
- v) How does ‘him’ keep himself awake during the night? What do you understand about ‘his’ character? Give reason to justify your answer. [4]

**Question 7**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

*Asleep in working Glasgow, asleep in well-set Edinburgh,  
Asleep in granite Aberdeen,  
They continue their dreams...*

- i) Who are referred to as ‘they’? What time of the day has been mentioned in this extract? Who would finally hand over the letters to ‘they’? [3]
- ii) Mention any two colours of paper on which the letters are written. Why do ‘they’ long for the letters? How would ‘they’ feel once they receive the letters? [3]
- iii) What are the various dreams that ‘they’ have? [3]
- iv) How do the sheep dogs and birds react when they see the Night Mail passing? How is Glasgow different from the moorland and hilly regions? [3]
- v) Throughout the poem, the poet has described the Night Mail as a living entity. According to you, what are the two admirable qualities or character traits of the Night mail? Give textual examples for your answer. [4]