

Rajkumar College, Raipur
Preliminary Examination – 2023-24

Class: XII
Sub: English II (LITERATURE)

Time: 3 Hours
MM: 80 Marks

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(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for **only** reading the paper. They must **NOT** start writing during this time).

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer all questions in Section A and Section B. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A – 20 MARKS

Question 1

Choose the correct options for the following questions: [10]

i) What do critics believe Prospero's speech is likely referring to when he says, "We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep"?

- a) The fleeting nature of life.
- b) The impermanence of Shakespeare's writing and legacy
- c) The idea that the temples and high towers will be destroyed.
- d) Dreams are transient and can break in no time.

ii) Why does Prospero attire himself as a Duke of Milan before being visible to his enemies

- a) Prospero's desire to hide his true identity from the courtiers .
- b) Prospero's intention to abandon his magical powers.
- c) Prospero's vanity and concern for appearances above all else.
- d) Prospero's plan to assert himself as a Duke of Milan and not a magician.

(iii) How does Prospero's comment that Caliban is someone "on whose nature nurture can never stick" characterize Caliban?

- a) As someone who is naturally superior but chooses to behave brutally
- b) As someone who is stubborn but capable of bettering himself
- c) As someone who is eager to change but stubborn to do so.
- d) As someone who is naturally inferior and cannot change.

iv) After Miranda marvels at the beauty of the men gathered before her, which of the following best describes the meaning of Prospero's comment, "Tis new to thee"?

a) Miranda's positive attitude upsets Prospero because he wishes she would be more realistic

b) Prospero admires Miranda's ability to so easily see into other people's true natures

c) Miranda is naive and will eventually learn that people are not always as beautiful as they seem

d) Prospero agrees with Miranda's admiration of the men and wants her to maintain her positive outlook

v) According to Mr. Gessler, big firms have no

(a) quality

(b) work-ethics

(c) interest

(d) self-respect

vi) Mrs. Mallard realizes what is most important for her is:

a) Self-respect

b) Security

c) Self-determination

d) Love

vii) In V.S. Naipaul's "B. Wordsworth", what can Wordsworth "watch for days"?

a) The trees and flowers blowing in the winds

b) Ants, scorpions, centipedes, and congores

c) The clouds

d) The mango trees developing fruit

viii) What does the vanishing light in Dover Beach denote, according to the poet?

a) Vanishing faith in humanity

b) Vanishing faith of English people in Christianity

c) Vanishing sense of kindness

d) Vanishing sense of modesty

ix) Which of the following best approximates the meaning of the "pulse of germ and birth" in line 13 of the poem, The Darkling Thrush':

- a) The cycle of sadness and joy
- b) The cycle of potential and birth
- c) The cycle of sickness and healing
- d) The cycle of decay and rejuvenation

x) How has the Bob Dylan described the war in John Brown?

- a) Glamorous war
- b) Eternal and destructive war
- c) Good old-fashioned war
- d) Soul wrenching war

Question 2

Complete the following sentences by providing a reason for each: [10]

i) In Act 4 Scene 1 of 'The Tempest' Prospero speaks about the transient nature of everything that exists because _____.

ii) In Act 5 Scene 1, of The Tempest, Prospero wants to give up his magic because_____.

iii) In Act 5 Scene 1, of The Tempest Ferdinand feels that the seas are merciful? because_____.

iv) In Act5 Scene 1, of The Tempest, Alonso is concerned about asking his own child's forgiveness because _____.

v) With a view to bring Jayanto back to normalcy Shankar suggested that _____.

vi)In this fast pacing world, the Gessler brothers were destroyed but not defeated because _____.

vii) B Wordsworth is called the strangest person who visited his neighborhood by the narrator because.....

viii) In Dover Beach, the 'sea of faith' symbolizes _____.

ix) John Brown's mother is proud because_____.

x) Swinging on birches was the best sport for a country boy because_____.

SECTION B- 60 MARKS

THE TEMPEST- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Q3.

i) Why does Prospero conjure a masque in **Act 4, Scene 1**, in Shakespeare's **The Tempest**? [5]

ii) What kind of ruler was Prospero before he was usurped and how might he rule Milan after he returns? [5]

iii) a) In **Act 5, Scene 1**, in Shakespeare's **The Tempest**, Ariel says the sorrow of the men would soften 'my heart were I human.' What is the significance of this statement and how it becomes instrumental in bringing a change in Prospero.] [10]

OR

b) Describe the conspiracy hatched by Caliban against Prospero. How is it different from the one hatched by Antonio? [10]

ECHOES: PROSE

Q4.(i) Referring to the short story **Fritz**, describe the difference between Bundi of Jayanto's childhood and the present times. [5]

ii) Do you think the story **B. Wordsworth** depicts two kind of people in the society; the logical and the emotional? Explain referring to the story. [5]

iii) a) Why does Mrs. Mallard find it difficult to recognize the realization that she is free? Why does she consider it to be a monstrous joy? Does marriage prove to be a **better deal** for men in the society. Elucidate by giving examples from the '**The Story of an Hour**'. [10]

OR

b) Change is the law of nature and one must keep **pace** with the **changing times**, otherwise one is sure to lose. State your opinions by referring to the story "**Quality**". [10]

REVERIE: POETRY

Q5.

i) How radically does the idea of war change for **John Brown** when once he becomes a part of it? [5]

ii) In "**Birches**," what does the speaker mean by fate might "half grant" his wishes? Why he doesn't want his wish to be granted by fate? [5]

iii) (a) What request does Arnold make to his beloved wife and why? Explain the image of "**Ignorant Armies clash by night**" as presented in **Dover Beach**.] [10]

OR

(b) Bring out the theme of **isolation, dislocation** and **nostalgia** as presented in the poem '**The Dolphins**'. [10]
