

SMARTWIZ

GRADE11 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

MARKS: 80

MARKS	

TIME: 2 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

Instructions for Learners:

- Read all instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your full name and student number clearly on the answer sheet/book.
- Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where necessary.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only a blue or black pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Do not talk to other learners during the exam.
- Any form of cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

This exam consists of six pages, including the cover page.

SECTION A: SHAKESPEARE – *HAMLET* (40 marks)

Read the extract below and answer the questions.

Extract: Hamlet's famous soliloquy (Act 3, Scene 1)

To be, or not to be: that is the question:
 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
 And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
 No more; and by a sleep to say we end
 The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
 That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
 Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
 To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;
 For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
 When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
 Must give us pause.

1.1 What dilemma is Hamlet expressing in this soliloquy? (3)

1.2 Explain the metaphor "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." (3)

1.3 What does Hamlet mean by "to take arms against a sea of troubles"? (3)

1.4 Why does Hamlet say "To die: to sleep; No more"? What does this reveal about his thoughts on death? (4)

1.5 Explain the phrase "To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub." What is the "rub"? (4)

1.6 How does this soliloquy reveal Hamlet's internal conflict? (3)

SECTION B: POETRY (40 marks)

Poem 1: “*Still I Rise*” by Maya Angelou

2.1 What is the tone of the poem? Support your answer with examples. (3)

2.2 Identify and explain two examples of repetition in the poem. (4)

2.3 How does the poem use imagery to convey strength? (3)

2.4 What message about overcoming adversity does the poem communicate? (3)

Poem 2: “*The Road Not Taken*” by Robert Frost

3.1 What choice is the speaker faced with in the poem? (3)

3.2 Explain the symbolism of the “two roads” in the poem. (3)

3.3 How does the poem explore the theme of decision-making and consequences? (4)

3.4 What feeling does the last stanza evoke about the choice the speaker made? (3)

CREATIVE TASK (10 marks)

Choose one of the following:

- a) Write a diary entry from Hamlet’s perspective on the day he delivers his “To be or not to be” soliloquy.
- b) Write a short poem inspired by *Still I Rise* about resilience in your own life.

Write approximately 100–120 words.

END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 80



MEMO

SECTION A: *Hamlet* (40 marks)

1.1

- Hamlet is debating whether to live or die — the question of existence.
- He is struggling with enduring suffering or ending it through death.
- (3 marks)

1.2

- “Slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” is a metaphor for the hardships and attacks life throws at a person.
- It suggests suffering caused by fate or bad luck.
- (3 marks)

1.3

- “To take arms against a sea of troubles” means to fight back against overwhelming problems.
- Hamlet considers whether to actively resist his difficulties.
- (3 marks)

1.4

- Hamlet equates death to sleep that ends all pain and suffering.
- He contemplates death as a peaceful escape but is uncertain.
- (4 marks)

1.5

- “Perchance to dream” means maybe death brings dreams or unknown experiences.
- The “rub” is the problem or obstacle — the fear of what dreams come after death.
- This fear causes Hamlet to hesitate.
- (4 marks)

1.6

- The soliloquy shows Hamlet’s deep internal conflict: to continue suffering or end his life.
- Reveals his indecision, fear, and philosophical questioning of life and death.
- (3 marks)

SECTION B: POETRY (40 marks)

Still I Rise – Maya Angelou

2.1

- The tone is confident, defiant, and hopeful.
- Examples: Repetitive use of “I rise,” references to overcoming oppression.
- (3 marks)

2.2

- Repetition examples: “I rise” repeated throughout to emphasize resilience.
- “You may” repeated to show challenges posed by others.
- (4 marks)

2.3

- Uses imagery such as “I’m a black ocean, leaping and wide” to show strength and vastness.
- “I dance like I’ve got diamonds at the meeting of my thighs” conveys power and self-worth.
- (3 marks)

2.4

- Message: No matter the difficulties, the speaker will rise above adversity and oppression.
- Emphasizes courage and hope.
- (3 marks)

The Road Not Taken* – Robert Frost*3.1**

- The speaker must choose between two paths in a forest, symbolizing a life decision.
- (3 marks)

3.2

- The “two roads” symbolize different choices or directions in life.
- Each road represents a different future.
- (3 marks)

3.3

- The poem explores how choices shape life’s journey.
- Shows that decisions have consequences, and the speaker reflects on the choice’s impact.
- (4 marks)

3.4

- The last stanza evokes a feeling of nostalgia and perhaps some regret or wonder about the road not taken.
- The speaker acknowledges the significance of his choice.
- (3 marks)

CREATIVE TASK (10 marks)

Criteria	Marks
Content relevance	/4
Creativity & originality	/3
Language & expression	/3
Total	/10

- Diary entry: Should reflect Hamlet's conflicted thoughts, fears, or reflections on life and death.
- Poem: Should clearly express resilience or overcoming challenges, inspired by *Still I Rise*.
- Mark for coherence, vocabulary, emotional depth, and engagement.

✓ **TOTAL: 80 MARKS**