

SMARTWIZ

GRADE 12 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

MARKS: 55

TIME: 2 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

MARKS	
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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 dishonesty will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

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



SECTION A: POETRY

[30 MARKS]

QUESTION 1: Prescribed Poem (Contextual Question)

Poem: "The Child Who Was Shot Dead by Soldiers at Nyanga" – Ingrid Jonker

Read the extract and answer the questions.

The child is not dead
the child lifts his fists against his mother
who shouts Africa shouts the smell
of freedom and the veld
in the locations of the heart of the soldiers
with guns, the child is present.

1.1 Where does the poem take place? Provide a brief context.
(2)

1.2 Identify and explain the metaphor in line 1: "The child is not dead."
(2)

1.3 What is the effect of repetition in the poem?
(2)

1.4 Refer to the line "the child lifts his fists against his mother."

- Who or what could the "mother" represent in this line?
(2)

1.5 Discuss the tone of the poem and how it contributes to the poem's meaning.
(3)

QUESTION 2: Unseen Poem (Contextual Question)

Poem: "Time" – Anon

Time, the thief,
steals every moment,
creeping silently,
like fog on windows.

It takes our youth,
our joys, our fears,
and leaves us memories—
blurred like old photos.

2.1 Identify the figure of speech in line 1 and explain its effectiveness.
(2)

2.2 What does the phrase “creeping silently, like fog on windows” suggest about the nature of time?
(2)

2.3 Discuss how the final line reinforces the theme of the poem.
(3)

2.4 In your opinion, does this poem evoke a sense of nostalgia or regret? Motivate your answer.
(3)

✓ **TOTAL SECTION A: [30 MARKS]**



SECTION B: NOVEL – LIFE OF PI

[25 MARKS]



QUESTION 3: Contextual Question

“It is simple and brutal: a person can get used to anything, even to killing.”
— *Life of Pi*, Chapter 74

3.1 Briefly explain what led Pi to make this statement.
(3)

3.2 What does this statement suggest about Pi's state of mind?

(3)

3.3 Identify and explain a major theme that is reflected in this extract.

(4)

3.4 Discuss the role of Richard Parker in keeping Pi physically and mentally alive.

(4)

3.5 In your opinion, is Pi's story believable? Support your answer with reasons.

(4)



QUESTION 4: Essay Question

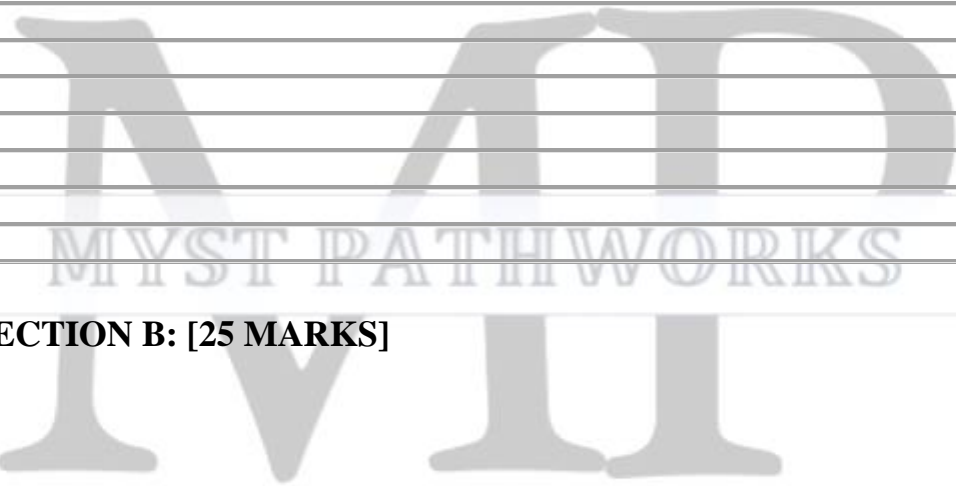
Answer the following question in about 250–300 words (1–1½ pages).

Pi's journey is not only about survival but also a spiritual awakening.

Discuss this statement with close reference to the novel.

[15 marks]

Answer:



✓ TOTAL SECTION B: [25 MARKS]

MEMO**✓ SECTION A: POETRY****[30 MARKS]****QUESTION 1: Prescribed Poem – “The Child Who Was Shot Dead by Soldiers at Nyanga”****1.1**

The poem is set in apartheid-era South Africa, where the child was killed during a protest at Nyanga.

(2)**1.2**

The metaphor “The child is not dead” suggests the child’s spirit lives on in the fight for justice and freedom.

(2)**1.3**

Repetition emphasizes the continuing presence and impact of the child in society. It reinforces the idea that the child’s death has not silenced him.

(2)**1.4**

The “mother” likely symbolizes the country (Mother Africa), indicating how the child’s actions challenge the injustices within their homeland.

(2)**1.5**

The tone is mournful yet defiant. It contributes to the message that the child’s death is not in vain; he becomes a symbol of resistance.

(3)**QUESTION 2: Unseen Poem – “Time”**

2.1

Personification: Time is called a “thief”. This is effective as it gives time the ability to steal, emphasizing the inevitability of aging and loss.

(2)

2.2

The fog metaphor suggests that time moves subtly, quietly, and often unnoticed—until it has already passed.

(2)

2.3

The blurred “old photos” imagery suggests that memories fade over time, reinforcing the theme of time’s impact on life and memory.

(3)

2.4

Accept either:

- **Nostalgia:** The speaker reflects on what has passed with longing.
- **Regret:** The speaker mourns lost time.

Award 3 marks for a well-motivated interpretation.

(3)

✓ **TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS**

SECTION B: LIFE OF PI

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3: Contextual Question

3.1

Pi has been surviving at sea and has had to kill animals to stay alive. He reflects on how repeated killing has become a part of his routine.

(3)

3.2

It shows Pi's psychological transformation: he has become desensitized due to trauma and survival pressure.

(3)

3.3

Theme: **Survival vs. Morality** – The extract reflects the conflict between Pi's spiritual values and the necessity of doing what is morally difficult in order to survive.

(4)

3.4

Physically: Richard Parker keeps Pi alert and cautious.

Emotionally: His presence gives Pi a sense of companionship and prevents him from succumbing to despair.

(4)

3.5

Accept any well-supported opinion:

- **Yes:** The story reflects believable psychological and emotional reactions to trauma.
- **No:** The presence of a tiger and elements of magical realism may seem implausible.

(4)

📌 QUESTION 4: Essay

Mark out of 15 using the following rubric:

Criteria	Marks
Insightful understanding of Pi's physical and spiritual transformation	6
Reference to relevant events and character development	3
Coherent structure, logical argument	3
Language, style, tone appropriate to literary essay	3
TOTAL	15

Key points may include:

- Physical challenges: dehydration, starvation, storms, tiger threats.
- Spiritual evolution: loss and rediscovery of faith, questioning of God, multiple religions.

- Symbolism of the lifeboat as a spiritual test.
 - Contrast between early idealism and later realism.
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✓ TOTAL : 55

