

# SMARTWIZ

## GRADE10 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

**MARKS: 100**

MARKS	

**TIME: 2 hours**

**SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASS (e.g. 4A)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SURNAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions for Learners:

- Read all the instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your name and learner number clearly on the answer sheet/booklet.
- Answer all the questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where applicable.
- Write neatly and legibly.
- Use only blue or black ink. *Do not use correction fluid or tape.*
- No electronic devices (calculators, phones, etc.) are 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 lead to disqualification.

**This test consists of 6 pages including the cover page.**

**Section A: Unseen Comprehension (20 marks)**

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

*The cool breeze whispered through the empty streets, carrying with it the scent of blooming jasmine. Shadows lengthened as the day faded, and a distant church bell chimed softly, blending with the hush of twilight.*

**Questions:**

1. What is the significance of the scent of jasmine in this passage? (3 marks)

---

---

---

2. Identify an example of alliteration in the passage and explain its effect. (3 marks)

---

---

---

3. How does the imagery in the passage create a sense of time and place? (4 marks)

---

---

---

4. What mood is established by the description of the “empty streets” and “soft chime”? (2 marks)

---

---

5. Discuss how the passage uses sound to enhance the atmosphere. (4 marks)

---

---

---

6. Suggest an alternative title for the passage and explain your choice. (4 marks)

---

---

---

---

## Section B: Poetry (20 marks)

Read the following excerpt from “*Caged Bird*” by Maya Angelou and answer the questions:

*But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage  
Can seldom see through his bars of rage;  
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied,  
So he opens his throat to sing.*

### Questions:

1. What feeling is expressed by the phrase “bars of rage”? (3 marks)

---

---

---

2. Explain the symbolism of “his wings are clipped and his feet are tied.” (4 marks)

---

---

---

---

3. How does the poet show the caged bird’s resilience despite its limitations? (4 marks)

---

---

---

---

4. Why do you think the bird “opens his throat to sing”? (3 marks)

---

---

---

5. What message about freedom and hope does this stanza convey? Support your answer with references. (6 marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Section C: Drama (30 marks)

Answer the questions based on *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare:

### 1. Contextual Question:

Read the following lines from Act 3, Scene 1:

*ROMEO:*

*O, I am fortune's fool!*

*(Act 3, Scene 1)*

### Question:

What does Romeo mean by calling himself “fortune’s fool”? How does this reflect his situation at this point in the play? (5 marks)

### 2. Character Analysis:

Consider Juliet’s reaction after hearing about Tybalt’s death and Romeo’s banishment.

### Question:

How does Juliet’s response demonstrate her loyalty and internal conflict? (5 marks)

### 3. Theme Exploration:

Discuss how fate influences the events in the play, citing examples from Act 3. (5 marks)

#### 4. Literary Devices:

Read these lines spoken by Mercutio:

*"A plague o' both your houses!"*

(Act 3, Scene 1)

**Question:**

Identify the literary device used here and explain its significance in the context of the play. (5 marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 5. Plot Development:

How does the fight scene in Act 3, Scene 1, serve as a turning point in the play? (10 marks)

MYST PATHWORKS

### Section D: Essay (30 marks)

**Instructions:**

Choose ONE of the following essay topics. Write a literary essay of 300–400 words. Support your arguments with examples and quotations.

## Topic 1: The Role of Fate in Romeo and Juliet

Explore how Shakespeare presents fate as an unavoidable force shaping the lives of Romeo and Juliet. Use examples from the play to illustrate your points.

---

---

---

---

---

AND

**Topic 3: The Impact of Violence on Love in Romeo and Juliet**

Discuss how acts of violence affect the relationship between Romeo and Juliet and contribute to the play's tragic outcome.

**TOTAL : 100**

## MEMO

### Section A: Unseen Comprehension (20 marks)

---

#### 1. Significance of the scent of jasmine (3 marks)

- Suggests calmness, beauty, or peaceful evening atmosphere (1 mark)
  - Enhances sensory detail, making the scene vivid (1 mark)
  - Symbolizes freshness, hope, or a gentle mood (1 mark)
- 

#### 2. Example of alliteration and effect (3 marks)

- Example: “whispered through the empty streets” (1 mark)
  - Effect: Creates soft, soothing sound mirroring calmness (1 mark)
  - Reinforces peaceful or quiet mood (1 mark)
- 

#### 3. Imagery creating time and place (4 marks)

- Visual imagery: “shadows lengthened,” “empty streets” indicates evening (2 marks)
  - Olfactory imagery: “scent of blooming jasmine” sets a natural environment (1 mark)
  - Together creates a twilight, serene urban setting (1 mark)
- 

#### 4. Mood from “empty streets” and “soft chime” (2 marks)

- Quiet, tranquil, or reflective mood (1 mark)
  - Slightly lonely or peaceful atmosphere (1 mark)
- 

#### 5. Use of sound enhancing atmosphere (4 marks)

- “Whispered” breeze suggests gentle movement (1 mark)
  - “Soft chime” of bell adds calmness or solemnity (1 mark)
  - Sound contrasts with emptiness, filling silence (1 mark)
  - Creates an immersive, peaceful evening tone (1 mark)
- 

#### 6. Alternative title and justification (4 marks)

- Example title: “Twilight Calm,” “Evening Whispers,” or “Jasmine Breeze” (2 marks)
- Justification linking title to mood, imagery, or setting (2 marks)

## Section B: Poetry (20 marks)

### 1. Feeling in “bars of rage” (3 marks)

- Anger or frustration from confinement (1 mark)
- Feeling trapped or imprisoned (1 mark)
- Emotional intensity behind physical barriers (1 mark)

### 2. Symbolism of “wings clipped and feet tied” (4 marks)

- Represents lack of freedom (1 mark)
- Physical/emotional/psychological imprisonment (1 mark)
- Prevents natural expression or movement (1 mark)
- Symbolizes oppression or social limitations (1 mark)

### 3. Showing resilience despite limits (4 marks)

- Bird still sings despite captivity (1 mark)
- Singing is an act of hope or protest (1 mark)
- Symbolizes strength to express despite adversity (1 mark)
- Suggests spirit cannot be fully crushed (1 mark)

### 4. Why bird “opens his throat to sing” (3 marks)

- To express longing or pain (1 mark)
- To keep hope alive (1 mark)
- To communicate desire for freedom (1 mark)

### 5. Message about freedom and hope (6 marks)

- The song as symbol of resilience and desire for freedom (2 marks)
- Shows hope persists even under oppression (2 marks)



- Highlights contrast between captivity and freedom (1 mark)
  - Supported by references to singing despite clipped wings (1 mark)
- 

## **Section C: Drama (30 marks)**

---

### **1. Romeo as “fortune’s fool” (5 marks)**

- Romeo feels controlled by fate/unlucky circumstances (2 marks)
  - Suggests he is a victim of bad luck or destiny (2 marks)
  - Reflects his despair after killing Tybalt (1 mark)
- 

### **2. Juliet’s response to Tybalt’s death and Romeo’s banishment (5 marks)**

- Shows conflict between love for Romeo and grief for Tybalt (2 marks)
  - Demonstrates loyalty to Romeo despite anger (1 mark)
  - Reveals emotional turmoil and complexity of feelings (2 marks)
- 

### **3. Fate influencing events (5 marks)**

- Fate as cause of misunderstandings and tragedy (2 marks)
  - Examples: Romeo’s chance encounter, timing of messages (2 marks)
  - Fate’s inevitability highlighted throughout (1 mark)
- 

### **4. Literary device in “A plague o’ both your houses!” (5 marks)**

- Device: Curse (1 mark)
  - Expresses Mercutio’s anger at the feud causing his death (2 marks)
  - Highlights consequences of family hatred (1 mark)
  - Adds dramatic tension (1 mark)
- 

### **5. Fight scene as turning point (10 marks)**

- Tybalt kills Mercutio; Romeo kills Tybalt (2 marks)
- Romeo’s banishment changes course of story (2 marks)
- Marks shift from romance to tragedy (2 marks)

- Raises stakes for main characters (2 marks)
  - Leads to chain of tragic events (2 marks)
- 

## Section D: Essay (30 marks)

---

### Marking criteria:

- **Introduction (5 marks):** Clear thesis and context.
  - **Content and analysis (15 marks):** Relevant ideas, detailed explanation, use of textual evidence.
  - **Organization and coherence (5 marks):** Logical structure and paragraphing.
  - **Language and expression (5 marks):** Good vocabulary, grammar, and style.
- 

### Suggested points for essay topics:

#### Topic 1: Fate in Romeo and Juliet

- Role of prophecy and “star-crossed lovers.”
- Events seeming out of their control (e.g., timing of Friar’s message).
- Romeo feeling “fortune’s fool.”
- Impact of fate on tragic ending.

#### Topic 2: Nature imagery in “Caged Bird”

- Contrast of free bird’s natural environment (wind, sky).
- Caged bird’s confinement (“bars,” “clipped wings”).
- Symbolism of natural freedom vs imprisonment.
- Enhances theme of freedom and oppression.

#### Topic 3: Violence’s impact on love

- Family feud causing conflict.
- Mercutio’s death escalating violence.
- Romeo’s banishment separating lovers.
- Violence as barrier to happiness.
- Contribution to tragic conclusion.

**TOTAL : 100**