

SMARTWIZ

GRADE 12 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

MARKS: 55

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 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 – “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost (Adapted extract)

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

1.1 What do the two roads symbolize in the poem?
(2)

1.2 Explain the speaker’s feeling of regret or doubt in the second line.
(2)

1.3 What does the phrase “And looked down one as far as I could” reveal about the speaker’s approach to decision-making?
(2)

1.4 Discuss how the setting (“yellow wood”) contributes to the mood of the poem.
(2)

1.5 How does the poem explore the theme of choice and consequence? Provide two points.
(4)

QUESTION 2: Unseen Poem – “Solitude” (Imaginary)

Alone in quiet corners,
The mind travels far and wide,

Searching for a place to rest,
Where voices hush and fears subside.

Yet solitude can sting,
A sharp, cold blade of truth,
Revealing depths unspoken,
The soul's unfinished youth.

2.1 What mood is created in the first stanza?
(2)

2.2 Explain the metaphor "A sharp, cold blade of truth." What does it reveal about solitude?
(3)

2.3 How does the poet use rhyme and rhythm to emphasize the theme?
(3)

2.4 Do you think the poem presents solitude as positive, negative, or both? Explain with evidence.
(3)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS

SECTION B: *LIFE OF PI*

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3: Contextual Question (Extract)

"I had to tame him. It was not a question of friendship, it was a question of establishing the place of each of us in the food chain."

3.1 Who is Pi referring to? What does he mean by “taming”?

(3)

3.2 How does this moment show Pi’s growth from innocence to survival instinct?

(3)

3.3 What does the phrase “food chain” imply about the relationship between Pi and the other being?

(2)

3.4 How does Pi’s scientific understanding of nature help him survive?

(3)

3.5 Discuss how fear and respect coexist in Pi’s attitude toward the creature.

(4)

QUESTION 4: Essay Question

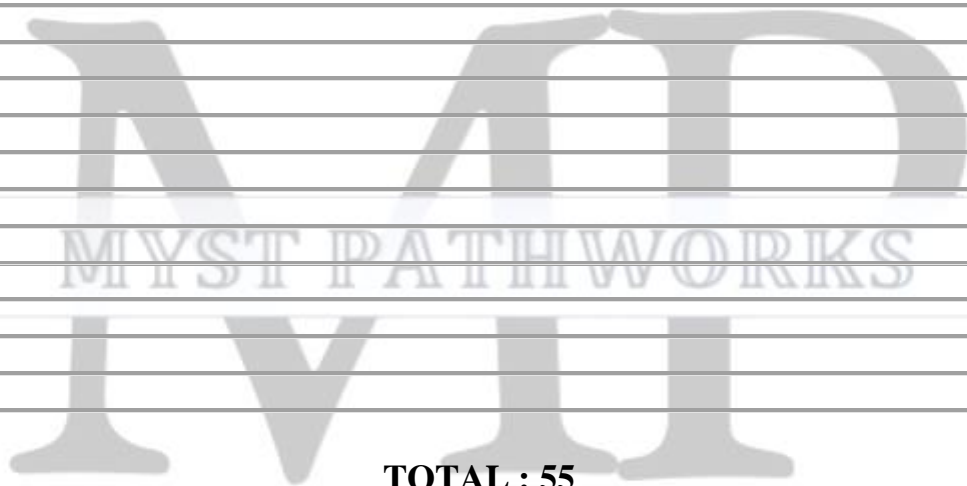
Write an essay (250–300 words) on the following:

“In *Life of Pi*, storytelling is a vital survival tool.”

Discuss how Pi uses storytelling to cope with his ordeal, referring to specific parts of the novel.

[15 Marks]

Answer space:



TOTAL : 55

MEMO

SECTION A: POETRY

[30 Marks]

QUESTION 1: “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost

1.1

The two roads symbolize **life choices** or **different paths in life**.

(2)

1.2

The speaker feels **regret or doubt** because he cannot take both paths and must choose, which may lead to missing out on experiences.

(2)

1.3

This phrase shows the speaker tries to **carefully consider** his options but can only see so far ahead — decisions are made with limited knowledge.

(2)

1.4

The “yellow wood” suggests **autumn**, a time of change and transition, which creates a contemplative, slightly melancholic mood.

(2)

1.5

- The poem explores **choice** as an inevitable part of life.
- It shows that choices have **consequences** that shape one’s future, often with no chance to go back.

(4)

QUESTION 2: “Solitude” (Unseen)

2.1

The mood in the first stanza is **peaceful and reflective**.

(2)

2.2

The metaphor “A sharp, cold blade of truth” means solitude can be painful because it forces people to confront uncomfortable realities about themselves.

(3)

2.3

The rhyme and steady rhythm create a **calm but serious tone**, reinforcing the thoughtful nature of solitude.

(3)

2.4

The poem presents solitude as **both positive and negative**:

- Positive as a time for rest and reflection (“quiet corners,” “voices hush”).
- Negative as a harsh truth and loneliness (“sharp, cold blade,” “unfinished youth”).

(3)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS

SECTION B: *LIFE OF PI*

[25 Marks]

QUESTION 3: Contextual

3.1

Pi refers to **Richard Parker, the tiger**. “Taming” means Pi must establish control and teach the tiger to respect him to survive.

(3)

3.2

This moment shows Pi's growth as he moves from innocence to **pragmatism** and develops a survival instinct to handle dangerous realities.

(3)

3.3

"Food chain" implies a **natural hierarchy of predator and prey**; Pi recognises his position in this system.

(2)

3.4

Pi's knowledge of animal behaviour, biology, and survival skills helps him anticipate and manage risks.

(3)

3.5

Pi feels **fear** of the tiger's power but also **respect** for its strength and majesty, balancing caution with admiration.

(4)

QUESTION 4: Essay – Storytelling as Survival

Marking criteria	Marks
Understanding of storytelling's role	6
Relevant references to novel events	3
Essay structure and coherence	3
Language, grammar, and style	3
Total	15

Expected content points:

- Pi creates stories to make sense of trauma (e.g., the two different versions of the shipwreck story).
 - Storytelling maintains hope and mental strength.
 - The act of narrating his experience helps Pi endure psychological isolation.
 - Spiritual and imaginative storytelling coexist with the harsh reality of survival.
-

TOTAL : 55

MAP

MYST PATHWORKS

IVII