

# SMARTWIZ

## GRADE11 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

**MARKS: 80**

**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 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 that follow.

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### 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...

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1.1 Who is Hamlet speaking to in this soliloquy? (2)

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1.2 What is Hamlet debating in this speech? (3)

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1.3 Explain the metaphor "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." (2)

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1.4 What does Hamlet mean by "to die: to sleep"? (2)

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1.5 Why does Hamlet say "there's the rub" in relation to death? (3)

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1.6 Identify two themes explored in this soliloquy. (2)

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1.7 What does this soliloquy reveal about Hamlet's state of mind? (3)

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1.8 Pick a line that shows Hamlet is confused or unsure. (1)

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## SECTION B: POETRY (40 marks)

Poem 1: "*Still I Rise*" by Maya Angelou

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2.1 What is the overall message of the poem? (3)

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2.2 Find two examples of powerful imagery in the poem. Quote and explain. (4)

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2.3 What literary device is used in the repeated phrase "I rise"? (2)

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2.4 How does the tone of the poem inspire readers? (3)

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Poem 2: "*The Road Not Taken*" by Robert Frost

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3.1 What is the main metaphor in the poem? (3)

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3.2 Explain the significance of the two roads. (3)

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3.3 What does the speaker regret or appreciate about his choice? (3)

Choose one of the following:

- a) Write a diary entry from Hamlet's perspective after delivering the soliloquy.  
b) Write a poem inspired by "Still I Rise" about overcoming challenges.

Write approximately 100-120 words.

**END OF EXAM**

**TOTAL : 80**

**MEMO****SECTION A: HAMLET (40 marks)****1.1**

- Hamlet is speaking to himself (soliloquy).
- (2 marks)

**1.2**

- Hamlet is debating whether it is better to live and suffer or to die and end his troubles.
- (3 marks)

**1.3**

- The “slings and arrows” metaphor means the hardships and attacks (problems) that life throws at us.
- (2 marks)

**1.4**

- “To die: to sleep” means that death is like sleep, a peaceful rest.
- (2 marks)

**1.5**

- Hamlet means that the uncertainty of what happens after death (dreams in sleep/death) causes fear and hesitation.
- (3 marks)

**1.6**

- Themes: Life and death, suffering, uncertainty, suicide, existence.
- (2 marks)

**1.7**

- Hamlet is confused, troubled, and contemplating suicide but hesitates due to fear of the unknown.
- Shows deep existential crisis.
- (3 marks)

**1.8**

- Example: “To be, or not to be: that is the question.”
  - (1 mark)
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## SECTION B: POETRY (40 marks)

### *Still I Rise* – Maya Angelou

#### 2.1

- The poem's message is about resilience, strength, and overcoming oppression and hardship.
- (3 marks)

#### 2.2

- Example 1: "I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide" – powerful image of strength and vastness.
- Example 2: "You may tread me in the very dirt" – image of being oppressed but still rising.
- (4 marks)

#### 2.3

- Repetition (anaphora) emphasizes resilience and determination.
- (2 marks)

#### 2.4

- The tone is confident, defiant, hopeful, and inspiring; it motivates readers to persevere.
- (3 marks)

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

#### 3.1

- The main metaphor is the two roads representing life choices or paths.
- (3 marks)

#### 3.2

- The two roads symbolize different life directions or decisions; the speaker must choose one.
- (3 marks)

#### 3.3

- The speaker both appreciates and wonders about the path not taken; there is a sense of curiosity and mild regret.
- (3 marks)

#### 3.4

- The poem explores how choices shape our lives and the inevitability of making decisions without knowing the outcome.
- (3 marks)

## CREATIVE RESPONSE (10 marks)

Mark according to:

Criteria	Marks
Relevance to topic	/4
Creativity & originality	/3
Language & expression	/3
<b>Total</b>	<b>/10</b>

- Diary: Should reflect Hamlet's inner turmoil and thoughts about life and death.
- Poem: Should echo themes of resilience and overcoming, inspired by *Still I Rise*.
- Award marks for clarity, vocabulary, and emotional insight.

✅ **TOTAL: 80 MARKS**