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 – "An African Thunderstorm" by David Rubadiri
Clouds come hurrying with the wind Turning sharply Here and there Like a plague of locusts Whirling, tossing up things on its tail Like a madman chasing nothing.
Pregnant clouds Ride stately on its back, Gathering to perch on hills Like dark sinister wings.
1.1 What is being described in the opening lines of the poem? (2)
1.2 Explain the significance of the simile: "like a plague of locusts." (2)
1.3 Identify two sound devices in the poem and explain their effects. (2)
1.4 How does the image of "pregnant clouds" add to the atmosphere of the poem? (2)
1.5 Discuss how the poem reflects both fear and awe toward nature. Support with evidence.

QUESTION 2: Unseen Poem – "The Old Guitarist" by J. Marsh (imaginary)

Bent over the strings
Fingers cracked and slow,
He coaxes songs
From the shadow of memory.

The guitar hums A soft regret, Telling stories No one remembers

- 2.1 Who is "he" in this poem and what is suggested about him?

 (2)

 2.2 What mood is created by "songs from the shadow of memory"?

 (2)

 2.3 Discuss how the poet uses personification to enhance the theme of memory.

 (2)

 2.4 In your view, is the tone of the poem hopeful or mournful? Support your answer.

 (2)
- 2.5 What might the "guitar" symbolize in the context of the poem?(2)
- **▼** TOTAL SECTION A: [30 MARKS]

SECTION B: NOVEL – *LIFE OF PI*

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3: Contextual Question

Read the extract and answer the questions:

"My greatest wish – other than salvation – was to have a book. A long book with a never-ending story. One I could read again and again, with new understanding each time. The *manual* was so short and dry. I had no books. I had the lifeboat manual, the survival guide, and my memory."

- 3.1 Where is Pi at this point in the novel and what is his situation?
 (2)
 3.2 Why does Pi long for a book, and what does this desire reveal about his character?
 (3)
 3.3 Comment on the irony of Pi calling the survival guide "short and dry,"
 (2)
 3.4 How does this extract illustrate the theme of imagination and the need for meaning?
 (4)
- **3.5** How does the author use **first-person narration** in the novel to affect the reader's understanding of Pi's ordeal?

(4)

QUESTION 4: Essay Question

"Pi's journey tests not just his survival, but his faith."

In a well-structured essay of 250–300 words, discuss how *Life of Pi* explores the theme of faith in the face of hardship.

[15 Marks]

Answer:	
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TAIL II F	

▼ TOTAL : 55

MEMO



SECTION A: POETRY

[30 MARKS]

QUESTION 1: "An African Thunderstorm" – David Rubadiri

1.1

The speaker is describing an approaching storm, with strong winds and ominous clouds.



1.2

The simile "like a plague of locusts" suggests the storm's **chaotic**, **destructive nature**. It also implies speed and danger.



1.3

Examples:

- Alliteration "Whirling, tossing..." creates a sense of movement and turbulence.
- Onomatopoeia Words like "whirling" mimic the sound of the wind.
 - ✓ Accept any **two** sound devices with explanations.



1.4

"Pregnant clouds" imply that the clouds are **heavy with rain**, adding tension and anticipation to the atmosphere.



1.5

The poet admires nature's **power** ("stately"), but also **fears** its unpredictable destruction ("like a madman chasing nothing").

✓ Award marks for a well-balanced discussion with evidence.



♀ QUESTION 2: "The Old Guitarist" – J. Marsh 2.1 He is an elderly musician. The poem suggests he is aged and fragile, yet emotionally connected to his music. \checkmark (2) 2.2 Mood: Nostalgic or mournful. The phrase suggests lost memories and faded past experiences. **(**2) 2.3 The guitar is personified—it "hums" and "tells stories", showing how music preserves forgotten emotions and history. **(**2) 2.4 Accept either: Mournful: Reflecting sadness and loss. Hopeful: Music lives on even if memories fade. ✓ Award for justified opinion. **(**2) 2.5 The guitar symbolizes memory, emotional expression, or the passage of time. It is a link to the past. **(**2)

SECTION B: LIFE OF PI

▼ TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3: Contextual Question

3.1

Pi is **stranded on a lifeboat** in the Pacific Ocean, after surviving a shipwreck. He is alone with limited supplies.



3.2

Books represent **comfort**, **knowledge**, **and imagination**. His longing shows his **intellectual and emotional depth**—he seeks meaning beyond survival.



3.3

Irony: A survival guide should be essential, but to Pi it's **uninspiring** and doesn't meet his **emotional/spiritual needs**.



3.4

The extract shows how Pi uses imagination and reflection (desire for stories) to **cope with despair**. It supports the novel's theme that **storytelling helps people survive emotional trauma**.



3.5

The first-person narration makes Pi's experience **personal and believable**, immersing the reader in his fears, thoughts, and beliefs. It creates **empathy** and also **ambiguity** around what is real.



QUESTION 4: Essay – Faith and Hardship

Mark out of 15 using this rubric:

Criteria	Marks
Insight into Pi's faith and its role during his ordeal	6

Accurate references to key events/themes	3
Logical and coherent structure	3
Language use, tone, and grammar	3
TOTAL	15

Possible points:

- Pi prays regularly and follows multiple religions.
- Faith gives him hope and a reason to live.
- He questions God, especially after the shipwreck, but maintains belief.
- The **two versions of his story** show the need to choose **faith (in God and imagination)** over despair.

