# **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.



#### [30 MARKS]

(2)

# **♀** QUESTION 1: Prescribed Poem – "Autumn" by Roy Campbell

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

I saw the lawns grow white with sudden frost, And morning gleamed across the fallow plain, Like a slow-blowing smoke upon the wind. The trees stood stiffly stripped, as though in pain.

And in the air the roar of branches dying Mixed with dry leaves that muttered on the ground, It was the year's death, cruel and undenying, Yet none had strength to cry the fatal sound.

- **1.1** What time of year is described in this poem? What does it symbolize in the context of life? (2)
- **1.2** Identify and explain the simile in stanza 1.
- **1.3** What mood is created by the phrase "trees stood stiffly stripped"? (2)
- 1.4 Refer to the line: "It was the year's death."
  - Explain what this metaphor suggests. (2)

<b>1.5</b> Discu (3)	1.5 Discuss the poet's attitude toward nature's change. Quote to support your answer.  3)		
• QUI	ESTION 2: Unseen Poem – "The Mirror" by Sylvia Plath (adapted)		
Whatever Just as it I am not	er and exact. I have no preconceptions.  r I see, I swallow immediately. is, unmisted by love or dislike. cruel, only truthful— of a little god, four-cornered.		
<b>2.1</b> Who (1)	or what is the speaker in this poem?		
<b>2.2</b> Expla	in the meaning of the metaphor "the eye of a little god."		
<b>2.3</b> What (2)	does the line "unmisted by love or dislike" reveal about the mirror?		
<b>2.4</b> Woul (3)	d you describe the tone of the poem as harsh, detached, or sympathetic? Justify your answer.		
✓ TO	ΓAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS		

SECTION B: NOVEL - LIFE OF PI

# [25 MARKS]

**QUESTION 3: Contextual Question** 

Read the following extract from Life of Pi and answer the questions:			
"I wept heartily over this poor little deceased soul. It was the first sentient being I had ever killed. I was now a killer. I was now as guilty as Cain. I had blood on my hands."			
3.1 Who or what has Pi just killed, and why did he do it? (3)			
<ul><li>3.2 Why does Pi compare himself to Cain in this moment?</li><li>(2)</li></ul>			
<ul><li>3.3 Comment on the contrast between Pi's emotional reaction and his survival needs.</li><li>(3)</li></ul>			
<ul><li>3.4 How does this moment reflect the central theme of loss of innocence?</li><li>(4)</li></ul>			
<ul><li>3.5 How does the novel portray the balance between spirituality and practicality in Pi's life? Use this extract and one other incident to support your answer.</li><li>(4)</li></ul>			
• QUESTION 4: Essay Question			
"Life of Pi is a story about the triumph of imagination over despair." Write an essay (250–300 words) in which you discuss the accuracy of this statement, using detailed reference to the novel.			
[15 Marks]			
Answer:			

MYST PATH ORKS  TOTAL: 55
✓ TOTAL: 55

#### **MEMO**



## SECTION A: POETRY

### [30 MARKS]

## **QUESTION 1: "Autumn" – Roy Campbell**

#### 1.1

The poem describes autumn, symbolizing the approach of death, decline, or the later stages of life.

Simile: "Like a slow-blowing smoke upon the wind."

This compares the morning mist or frost to smoke, suggesting something ghostly and fleeting, reinforcing the poem's somber tone.

**(2)** 

### 1.3

Mood: The phrase "trees stood stiffly stripped" suggests a bleak, lifeless, or somber atmosphere.

**(2)** 

Metaphor: "It was the year's death" - The poet compares the end of the year to a death, implying the cycle of life and the inevitability of decay.

#### 1.5

The poet expresses a **melancholic acceptance** of nature's cycle. Words like "cruel" and "undeniable" reflect the harsh reality of seasonal change and mortality.

Award 3 marks for quoting and insightfully linking to the poet's attitude.

**(3)** 

# **QUESTION 2: "The Mirror" – Sylvia Plath (Adapted)**

2.1

The **mirror** is the speaker/persona of the poem.

**(1)** 

2.2

Metaphor: "the eye of a little god" – This implies the mirror sees everything **truthfully**, **completely**, **and without bias**, almost with divine authority.

**(2)** 

2.3

The mirror reflects without emotion—it shows things as they are, "unmisted by love or dislike," highlighting its **objectivity**.

**(2)** 

#### 2.4

Acceptable answers:

- **Detached**: The mirror reports facts without emotion.
- Harsh: Some may find its honesty brutal.
   Award 3 marks for a clear tone choice with valid justification.
   (3)

**▼** TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS

SECTION B: NOVEL - LIFE OF PI

[25 MARKS]

# **QUESTION 3: Contextual Question**

3.1

Pi has just killed a **fish or turtle** (acceptable). He kills it for **food**, as he is starving on the lifeboat.

**(3)** 

1	
1	•

Cain killed his brother in the Bible. Pi uses this to show how killing **violates his moral and religious beliefs**, making him feel sinful.

**(2)** 

#### 3.3

Emotionally, Pi is **traumatized** and mourns the death of the animal. Yet, his **need to survive** forces him to override his morals.

**(3)** 

#### 3.4

This moment marks a **loss of innocence**. Pi changes from a vegetarian with strong moral beliefs to someone forced to **kill to survive**.

**(4)** 

#### 3.5

Pi prays and reads religious texts, showing his **spiritual devotion**, but also builds tools and trains Richard Parker, showing **practical survival**.

This moment and the scene where he creates fresh water both show this balance.

**(4)** 

# QUESTION 4: Essay – "Imagination over Despair"

#### Mark out of 15 using the following rubric:

Criteria	Marks
Insight into Pi's use of imagination (e.g., the tiger, storytelling, faith) to overcome trauma	6
Relevant references to events in the novel	3
Logical structure and progression of ideas	3
Language use and tone appropriate to a literary essay	3
TOTAL	15

#### **Key points could include:**

- The creation of the animal story helps Pi cope with the horror of reality.
- His belief in multiple religions supports spiritual hope.
- Imagination helps him remain mentally strong (e.g., pretending to care for a zoo or journal writing).
- Alternative story shared with investigators illustrates how **narrative itself is a survival tool**.

**✓** TOTAL : 55

