

SMARTWIZ

GRADE11 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

MARKS: 80

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 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.

Extract: Hamlet speaking to Ophelia (Act 3, Scene 1)

I did love you once.
 I loved you not.
 I loved you once.
 I loved you not.
 To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
 To the last syllable of recorded time,
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
 And then is heard no more. It is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
 Signifying nothing.

1.1 What is Hamlet's attitude towards love in the first four lines? (3)

1.2 Explain the meaning of "to-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow." (3)

1.3 Identify and explain two metaphors used to describe life in the passage. (4)

1.4 What does the phrase "Out, out, brief candle!" symbolize? (2)

1.5 How does this speech reflect Hamlet's state of mind? (3)

1.6 What is the significance of the phrase “signifying nothing”? (3)

SECTION B: POETRY (40 marks)

Poem 1: “*The Unknown Citizen*” by W.H. Auden

2.1 What is the poem’s main message or theme? (3)

2.2 How does the poem use irony to critique society? Give examples. (4)

2.3 Identify and explain one example of satire in the poem. (3)

2.4 How does the poem reflect on individuality and conformity? (3)

Poem 2: “*Harlem (A Dream Deferred)*” by Langston Hughes

3.1 What question does the poem ask about dreams? (3)

3.2 Explain the simile “Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?” (3)

3.3 What emotions does the poem evoke about deferred dreams? (3)

3.4 How does the poem’s structure (short lines and questions) contribute to its impact? (3)

CREATIVE RESPONSE (10 marks)

Choose one of the following:

- a) Write a letter from Hamlet to Ophelia explaining his feelings and confusion.
- b) Write a short poem inspired by *Harlem* about the importance of holding onto your dreams.

Write approximately 100–120 words.

END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 80

MYST PATHWORKS

MEMO

SECTION A: *Hamlet* (40 marks)

1.1

- Hamlet's attitude is confused and contradictory about love.
- He claims both to have loved and not loved Ophelia.
- Shows emotional turmoil and inner conflict.
- (3 marks)

1.2

- "To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow" refers to the slow, monotonous passing of time.
- Emphasizes the meaningless, repetitive nature of life.
- (3 marks)

1.3

- Metaphor 1: Life as a "brief candle" — fragile and short-lived.
- Metaphor 2: Life as "a walking shadow" — insubstantial, temporary, and meaningless.
- Metaphor 3: Life as "a poor player that struts and frets" — like an actor who plays a role but then disappears.
- (4 marks)

1.4

- "Out, out, brief candle!" symbolizes death extinguishing life's fragile flame.
- Suggests life is fleeting and easily ended.
- (2 marks)

1.5

- Reflects Hamlet's deep despair, nihilism, and existential crisis.
- Shows hopelessness and a bleak view of existence.
- (3 marks)

1.6

- "Signifying nothing" means life ultimately has no meaning or purpose.
- Shows Hamlet's belief in the futility of human effort.
- (3 marks)

SECTION B: POETRY (40 marks)

***The Unknown Citizen* – W.H. Auden**

2.1

- The poem critiques blind conformity and loss of individuality in modern society.
- It shows how society values compliance over uniqueness.
- (3 marks)

2.2

- Irony: The “unknown citizen” is praised for being perfect, but we learn nothing real about him.
- The poem ironically praises a man who is completely anonymous and controlled.
- Examples: “He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be...”
- (4 marks)

2.3

- Satire: The poem mocks bureaucratic society that values statistics over real human qualities.
- Satirizes how society reduces people to numbers and data.
- (3 marks)

2.4

- Reflects on how society suppresses individuality and forces conformity.
- The citizen’s identity is lost in his role as a “perfect” subject.
- (3 marks)

***Harlem (A Dream Deferred)* – Langston Hughes**

3.1

- The poem asks what happens to dreams that are postponed or unfulfilled.
- (3 marks)

3.2

- The simile compares a deferred dream to a raisin drying up in the sun — losing vitality and withering.
- Suggests neglect and decay of hopes.
- (3 marks)

3.3

- Evokes frustration, sadness, and anxiety over broken dreams.
- The poem builds tension through vivid and sometimes violent images.
- (3 marks)

3.4

- Short lines and questions create urgency and provoke thought.
- The structure reflects fragmentation and uncertainty of deferred dreams.
- (3 marks)

CREATIVE RESPONSE (10 marks)

Criteria	Marks
Content relevance	/4
Creativity & originality	/3
Language & expression	/3
Total	/10

- Letter should express Hamlet's conflicted emotions sincerely.
- Poem should capture the theme of dreams, hope, or frustration clearly.
- Mark for coherence, vocabulary, tone, and engagement.

✓ **TOTAL: 80 MARKS**